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When the Big Blazer burned bright

The nation watched in awe at Caney's great gas well fire of 1906

By Andy Taylor
Chronicle Publications

Caney's claim to national fame burned in front of its very eyes.

Ninety years ago this month, lightning struck a gas well southeast of Caney, creating a fountain of fire that illuminated the horizon for an entire month.

Immediately, that gas well fire was thought to be Caney's ticket to economic stardom, a natural show of fire that would prove the community's industrial might and supply of plentiful energy.

Thousands of people poured into Caney during late February and early March of 1906 to see the spectacular blaze, a fire that cast a glow on the skies that could be seen 80 miles from Caney.

Excursion trains ran daily specials to the city. Livery stables made a booming

business. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, packed into Caney's hotels. Local business leaders produced commemorative postcards and souvenir issues of the Caney Chronicle hailing the magnificent feat of nature.

The fire burned so bright, some stories claim, that people in Havana could walk outside at night and read the Chronicle clearly as the fire glowed from the heavens. The Kansas City Times had a correspondent at the scene of the well for 20 days, delivering daily reports to the Times' readers.

The roar of the well created a constant rumbling of the earth in and around Caney, jarring windows from their sashes and breaking numerous dishes.

Trees and grass around the well began to turn green as the glowing heat from the continual blaze turned the bitterly cold ground into a premature spring.

Migratory birds flying around the area

were attracted to the warmth of the blaze thinking that the bright light was the noon-day sun. However, many birds died as the attractable heat scorched their feathers and wings.

However, the true magnificence of the great gas well fire can't be measured by how far the burning well could be seen nor by the number of people who jammed into Caney's dirt streets to watch the giant candle.

The well's sheer volume and strength was incredible, a record breaker in the annals of petroleum history. To this day, that great gas well fire is thought to be unmatched in the volume of burned natural gas. By the time a metal hood weighing one and a half tons was secured to the well's dragon-like snout, almost 70 million cubic feet of gas spewed from the well each day, providing enough natural gas to keep New York City illuminated for an entire month, experts claim.

And the pressure coming from the ground was so strong that just a single square inch of flame could crush 450 pounds of metal.

Just one single inch.

The giant well burned 150 feet into the air.

The well was drilled four miles east and one mile south of Caney, in the middle of the Cotton Creek area. The New York Oil and Gas Company drilled the well at a depth of 1,428 on Feb. 16, 1906, and when struck, the well was gauged at 28.5 million cubic feet of gas per day with a pressure of 660 pounds to the square inch, making it one of the six largest gas wells in the world.

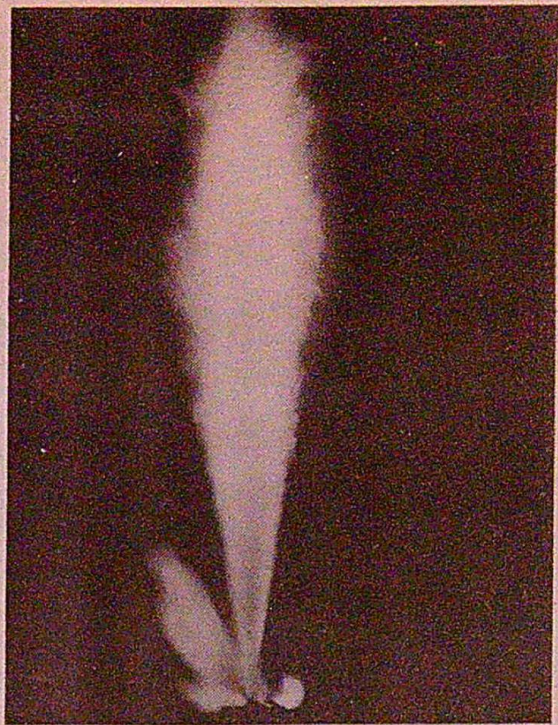
(continued on page 6)

Fire observers provided theories how to put out the giant blaze

During the burning of the great gas well, newspapers printed suggestions — some serious, other bizarre — from area people on how to extinguish the blaze.

The Caney Chronicle of March 9, 1906 printed some of those crazy suggestions: Among them:

- ☐ Throw enough salt into well to smother it out.
- ☐ Secure a rock weighing two or three tons, draw it over the well by means of chains and drop it over the mouth of the fire. However,
- ☐ Dress up men in suits made of gunny sacks soaked in water. With these men protected, they could rush into the fire with wet gunnysacks around their hands and smother out the flames.
- ☐ Tunnel under the ground, put a partition in the tunnel, one for the air and one for the escaping gas. Put a clamp on the gas pipe to prevent its pulling apart then saw an opening in the pipe, shutting the gas off by means of a slide.
- ☐ Take a giant blanket, double it and wet it. Fasten the wet blanket to chains and then draw it over the well to smother out the flames.



When the Big Blazer of 1906 burned bright

(continued from page one)

A rumbling thunderstorm rolled into the region on Feb. 23. Lightning struck the drilling apparatus, causing the derrick to shatter and igniting the combustible gas into a shower of fire 150 feet into the sky.

Immediately, work crews were faced with numerous struggles. Crews could not get near the well because of the intense heat and because flames jutted out not only from the top of the well casing but also from an inner casing at the base.

According to "The Story of the Great Fire At Caney," produced by the Caney Commercial Club in 1906, the work crews tried to consume the flames to one body. They fired Winchester rifle bullets at the top casing in a futile attempt at weakening the glowing metal casing. Finally, the metal was weakened to the point that a cable could be wrapped around the inner casing and removed. The flames now were in unison in an uncontrollable roar.

The second struggle was trying to devise a hood that would cap the fiery well. Work crews quickly developed a rickety short-line railroad that would hold a movable crane and other objects closer to the well. Three attempts were made placing a hood on the flame. Each time, the hood either was blown to bits or melted before it reached the inferno.

Finally, on March 12, a one ton hood was maneuvered over the flame, and it appeared that the well fire had been snuffed out. Valves on the hood closed the escaping gas, creating darkness to an area that had been accustomed to seeing light.

But it didn't last. During the night, the pressure underneath the hood boiled with intensity, and sand ground through the thick metal. Finally, the pressure gave way to a flame that melted both the hood and the crane holding it in place. Even the earth around the fire glowed with volcanic similarity, a bright red mud appearing much like lava.

A cannon sitting a tank storage facility north of Caney was summoned, and the large cannonball blew away the remains of the melting crane and hood.

The fire roared to 70 million cubic feet per day, and the Caney Chronicle from that week said that superstitious residents stayed awake at night for fear of universal doom.

It would finally require another hood, built in Independence and shipped on special rail car, weight one and a half tons to cap the fire. On March 29, the heavy hood was placed on the well and valves closed off the escaping gas. The great fire that attracted so much attention passed into history.

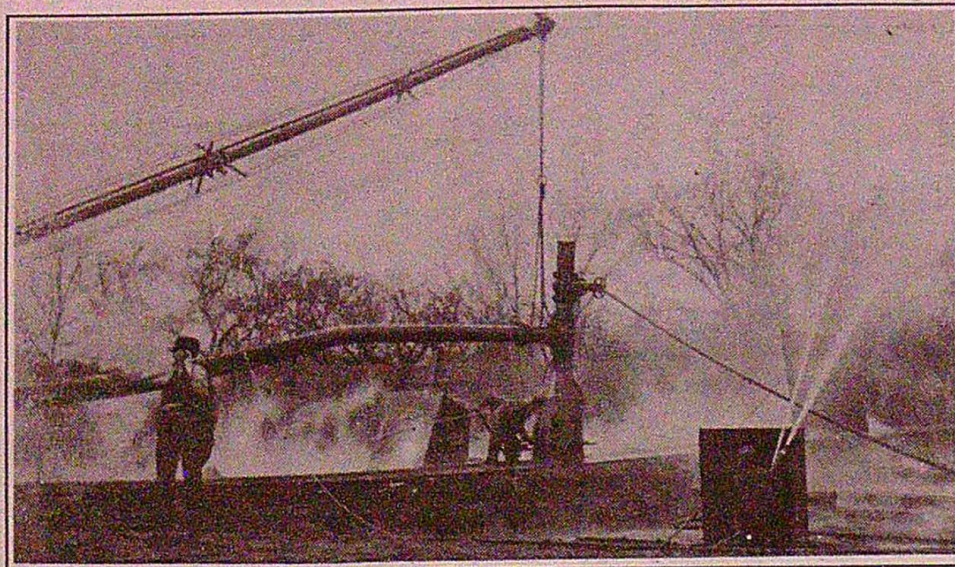
In the end, the fire burned 34 days and more than \$30,000 was spent putting it out.

There were no fatalities related to the fire.

"It's a miracle nobody was killed," said Caney historian Ivan Pfalser, who lives about one and a half miles north of the well.

During the gas well fire, Caney became a hub of tourist activity. Thousands poured into the town to get a chance to see that freak fire.

"I really think there is no exaggeration of the number of people who came here to see the fire," Pfalser said. "There are numerous accounts of the fire in the region's newspapers, and I have seen stories of the excursion trains that brought people to town



Workers at the 1906 gas well try to place hood on giant flame.

to see the fire."

Even other communities tried to stake a claim in the fire. Pfalser said he has accumulated souvenir postcards of the burning well showing the being located near Caney, near Coffeyville and near Bartlesville.

"I guess each of the towns was trying to claim it," he said.

That gas well fire also brought its share of rather humorous incidents.

Pfalser said various accounts of the fire talk about a couple of drunken oil field workers who drove a wagon full of nitroglycerin to within a few feet of the well before the horses became spooked and the drunken men frightened. When the horses were released and the men stumbled away, the intensity of the fire smoldered the wood on the wagon.

Steam was placed on the wagon to keep the nitroglycerin from doing severe damage to the area.

Another incident about the fire was that a hot dog stand was erected near the gas well, giving tourists something to snack on while workers bravely tried to put the fire out of its misery. It also provided a carnival-type atmosphere.

"It is truly one of those stories not seen in Kansas history books," said Craig Miner, a distinguished professor of history at Wichita State University who has written

several books about the petroleum industry in Kansas. "It is an amazing yet also tragic because oil and gas companies and cities never had a technological way to harness that natural gas."

Miner said cities in southeast Kansas during the industrial boom era freely gave away their natural gas supplies to prospective industries, and quite a race developed between communities to see who could supply the greatest supply of free gas.

"That's why the region had so many brick plants, zinc companies and smelters," he said. "Towns gave the gas away, and higher-energy wasting industries took advantage of it."

"Unfortunately for southeast Kansas, the towns just used up all the gas reserves. There wasn't any energy conservation at all. And that gas well in Caney very well may have burned a great deal of that area's supply."

Miner said that his research showed the burning gas well's energy potential. According to one of his researched accounts, the gas consumed during the fire was equal to practically 6,000 tons of good coal each day. Coal was the primary use for heating and energy during that era.

Just 11,000 cubic feet of Caney gas well was equal to one ton of bituminous coal.

Besides the great burning gas well, six other monster wells drilled during that same months provided at least 140 million cubic

feet of gas per day. That would create more than 12,000 tons of coal-burning fuel per day.

"Ironically, gas wasn't the real reason those well were drilled," Miner said. "Those companies drilled for oil. Gas was just a by-product."

The story of the great gas well fire of 1906 is made more interesting because of the way the owner of the land was duped into a "vacation" while oil and gas rigs flooded his property.

Pfalser says several stories have roamed the generations since the fire about an Indian named Vanderpod, who owned the land where the gas well was located. In 1906, the land was still Indian Territory, and the land was allotted to Indians like Vanderpod.

However, part of the reason that oil and gas made a major impact in Indian Territory was through a bit of horns wagging on the part of oil companies.

Pfalser said the New York Oil and Gas Company apparently took Vanderpod on an excursion trip. One story claims he was sent to California, another claims he went to Cuba. Anyway, the company held Vanderpod on a vacation for three or four weeks, just enough time for the company to land a powerful well on Vanderpod's property.

"Vanderpod was under the age of 18 at that time, and the company basically had him kidnapped somewhere until he was 18, the age required to sign a lease over to company," Pfalser said. "The company kept him away from his home until the well was drilled and capped. Then they would try to force him to sign the lease."

The land where the gas well was drilled now is owned by the John Kane estate of Bartlesville. A piece of metal pipe jutting from the ground is the only remnant of that mighty gas well.

"I've been told that Keith Newby once worked that ground, the big hood used to cap the well sat on the site for many years," Pfalser said. "Finally, somebody took the hood, cut a hole in it for a door and used it as a brooder's house. I don't know where the hood may have ended up, perhaps in a scrap metal pile."

"It grated on the nerves of most everybody"

There is no denying the fact that the people of Caney have seen all the sights of a burning gas well that they care to see. From the time the well was first fired, the sight was terribly beautiful (if such an expression is admissible in describing something that its at the same time both beautiful and terrible) but when the monster gaser suddenly doubled in volume last Friday evening the well struck terror to many of the people of Caney.

The terrible rumbling and roaring of the burning gas as it came from the well with a force of about 650 pounds to the square inch sounded like the approach of a cyclone or tornado. Some people who have heard the wild waves of the mighty deep when the sea was rough say it sounds just like the ocean when a storm is on.

At any rate, it was something terrible. The vibration from the well rattled the windows in houses in town between four and miles from the well. Nervous people could

not sleep, superstitious people were in constant dread for fear of an upheaval of the entire country, but there could be no danger.

It grated unpleasantly on the nerves of most everybody. All were anxious for the terrible rumbling and roaring to cease, and when there was a change in the atmospheric condition early Tuesday morning, which carried the awful noise away from the city, the effect was as the calm after a storm has passed.

At intervals the roaring would die away until it was almost lost to the ear, as the going of a heavily laden freight train. There there would come a gush that seemed it would tear the very bowels of the earth out. The flames would leap, high into the air, and could be plainly seen from town, and there is a range of hills fully seventy-five feet high between Caney and the Cotton Creek valley, and the well is located in the very lowest part along the creek.

When the well "broke loose" last Friday, it hurled rocks all the way from the size of a walnut to as large as your double fist, high into the air. Workmen ceased to work about the well, and guards were stationed at every approach to warn spectators of the danger of going near the miniature volcano, which had increased in volume from 36,000,000 to about 70,000,000. These estimates are given by J.C. McDowell, general manager of the Kansas Natural Gas Company and who has had a life-time experience with gas wells.

The shower of stones had ceased by Sunday evening, and Monday morning the work of laying a track of railroad iron to the well, on which to run the truck carrying the hood was begun.

So intense was the heat that water was constantly thrown on the workmen and they could not work long without gong after fresh air.

— Caney Chronicle, March 8, 1906

Caney Burning Gas is Still Burning, and Attracts Widespread Attention. It is the Biggest Gas Well That Had Ever Been Known to be on Fire. Thousands of People Come to Caney to See the Monster Flame.

HAVE YOU STOPPED TO THINK what compound interest means? A few dollars deposited regularly out of your earnings and placed at interest will soon amount to a huge sum. Commence **RIGHT NOW** by depositing your money at the

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We will be pleased to explain our interest bearing certificates to you.

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The machinery with which to put the head over the well consists of a triangular shaped crane. This is mounted on two trucks and supported by a network of steel cables.

KANSAS
CANE
The One We'll
Indian Ter

day, there will be the biggest crowd in Caney ever assembled in a town in southern Kansas. Excursions are being arranged from Wichita, Nevada and Joplin, Mo., and Kansas City. Everybody will have to throw open their homes if the crowd is properly taken care of. But we hope the well is under control before this big thing gets into print. We are advertised a picnic plenty. Miss Levin is home from St. Louis, and says the burning gas well at Caney is all the talk in that city, and certainly that is all you can hear in every city, town and hamlet in the west.

As we go to press the hood which it is hoped will be the last of the fifteen feet of the well the front axel of the front truck supporting the pipe broke. When the pipe supporting the hood broke one of the key cables, allowing it to swing around off the track. It will probably take a day or two before they are ready to go to work again.

But whisky and hoisting the huge iron cranks and placing them, won't work together, and whisky had to go. Mrs. Hawes of Danville, Illinois, and her sister Mrs. Rice were in the office to day. She says all you can hear in Danville, and in the train, is the burning gas well at Caney.

Extra copies of
this issue, and
souvenir cards at
the office

Another suggestion sent to Mr. Utz to have Brown's relatives of their, terback was to take a blanket, double When they reached the top of the hill and well it, fasten a chain to it and he had had work persuading them to draw it over the well.

But the men in charge of the well, coming all that distance to see the well. They said they knew they would have had years of experience in handling kids wells, seen fit to work not sheep any, and we expect they did out to their own salvation, and had the best. They thought the had a slight bit in the time to see a burra-

Inside the torrid range came the Tropical, and the early herbs had made a growth of as much as two inches, caused by the warming of the ground. A little further away spring had not as yet made itself manifest.

Everybody had a throw of the boat and easiest way to put the fire out. The Coffeyville Record said it would be done by dressing men up in suits made of gunny sacks soaked in water. With these to protect them they would fish in and with wet gunny sacks in their hands would smother out the flames. There are two weak points in that theory: one is, what would protect the men from the boiling water, and the other the difficulty of getting enough men around a six-inch hole at one time to smother out the flames.

Another sure way was to secure a rock weighing two or three tons, draw it over the well by means of chains fastened to iron rods fastened to the rock. That was supposed to entirely shut off the gas. It might have worked.

Another plan was received by the Chronicle through the mails. It was to throw enough salt into the well to smother it out. But who would

PHOTOGRAPHS

Your pictures will be strictly up-to-date if made at our studio. Call on us for Bromide Enlargements, Copying, etc. First door west of Christian church, Caney, Kansas.

Yost Sisters,

The Photographer

Yost Sisters,

The Photographer

Photo by Francis taken Sunday night Feb. 25.

entire country, but there would be no danger.

It rated impressively on the indexes of most evenings. All were anxious for the terrible pounding and heaving to cease, and when there was a lull in the atmospheric condition early in the Tuesday morning which carried the awful noise away from the city, the effect was as the calm after a storm has passed.

At intervals the pattern would die away until it was almost lost to the ear as the sound of a heavily laden freight train. Then there would come a rush that seemed it would tear the very bowels of the earth out. The houses would leap high into the air, and would be plucked soon from town, and there is a range of hills four or five feet high between Carey and the old iron creek valley, and the well is located in the very lowest part along the creek.

When the well "drives home" last Friday it hurled rocks all the way from the size of a walnut to as large as your double fist, high into the air. Work soon ceased to work about the well.

There is no denying the fact that the people of Canby have seen the sights of a burning Kilauea. The lava came to see it from the time it well was first fired. The sight was truly beautiful, if so that an expression is admissible in describing something that is at the same time both beautiful and terrible, but when the greatest Kilauea suddenly doubled in volume last Friday evening the well stream turned to many of the people of Canby.

The terrible rambling and roaring of the burning Kilauea is a case of the well that is *filled* of about 824 barrels and only a *finger* of the substance that sounded like the approach of a cyclone or tornado. Some people who have heard the wild waves of the mid-ocean deep when the sea was rough and it sounds just like the ocean when a storm is on.

There is one thing that is something terrible. The situation from the well that is seen from the town of Canby, when the windows in houses in Canby were torn and the roofs blown away. Nervous people could not sleep. Impetuous people were in constant dread for fear of an upheaval of the

and pinheads were stationed along every 100 ft. of the well. The well was then capped and the gas was allowed to burn off. The danger of going near the inhibition zone was not taken lightly. The gas volume, which had increased in volume from 5,000,000 to about 20,000,000,000 cu ft, was estimated at about 100,000,000 cu ft. These estimates are given by J. C. McElwain, general manager of the Kansas Natural, and who has had a lifetime experience with gas wells.

The shower of stones had ceased by Sunday evening, and Monday morning the work of laying a track of railroad ties to the well, on which to run the track carrying the hood was begun.

So intense was the heat that water was constantly thrown on the workmen and they could not work long without going after fresh air.

The hard-frozen Tuesday morning, by special train from Independence, was taken to the well soon as possible. The work of placing it over the well was begun immediately. It will be belated down over the well because so that the pressure of gas from the well can not blow it off. To this is attached two lines of pipe, one straight up and one leading 30 feet away from the well. This pipe are 12 and 9-inch

Another was to tunnel under the ground, put a partition in the tunnel, and have one for air and one for escaping gas. Then put a clamp on the gas pipe to prevent its pulling apart; then saw an opening in the pipe, and shut the gas off by means of a slide. That might be a work all right, but Mr. McDowell says the man who would do that had just seen the well.

As well say his prayers before he went in, for he would never get out alive. Dynamite was suggested, and glycerine was thought of, both of which might have worked all right.

Another suggestion went to Mr. C. C. Terrence was to take a blanket, double it and sew it, fasten a chain to it and draw it over the well.

But the men in charge of the well, who have had years of experience in handling gas wells, seem fit to work out their own salvation, and had the good made. They thought the best

paid for the trouble and expense. A gentleman from Connecticut who was in the vicinity hired a rig at Terrence's out. His train thought he was directing them into the best business pit and refused to be diverted into the sea of bitumens. They ran away, and it cost him a new buggy to see the well.

Another man from Boston begged the workmen to take him out at any cost.

Two ladies from Joplin, Missouri, hired Mr. Oglesby to take them out to have flowers, relatives of theirs. When they reached the top of the hill he had hard work persuading them to go out; they wanted to turn back, after coming all that distance, to see the well. They said they knew they would not sleep any, and we expect they did not.

A night in the time to see a bur-

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Aldrich, which appeared in the To. which allowed the natural flame to beka Journal. The Kansas City Star shows itself. It was not because the man had Mr. Frank L. Martin on the wall was stronger than the flame was renewed when Sunday and he has been larger.

The machinery with which to put

Photo by Francis taken Sunday night Feb. 25.

entire country, but there would be no danger.

It rated impressively on the indexes of most earthquakes. All were anxious for the terrible rumbling and heaving to cease, and when there was a lull in the atmospheric condition early in the afternoon which carried the awful noise away from the city, the effect was as the calm after a storm has passed.

At intervals the roaring would die away until it was almost lost to the ear as the sound of a heavily laden freight train. Then there would come a rush that seemed it would tear the very bowels of the earth out. The houses would leap high into the air, and would be plumed soon from town, and there is a range of hills four or five feet high between Carey and the old iron creek valley, and the well is located in the very lowest part along the creek.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Your pictures will be strictly up-to-date if made at our studio. Call on us for Bromide Enlargements, Copying, etc. First class work at Christian church, Carey, Kansas.

Yost Sisters,
The Photographers.

Several good pictures of the well were taken. W. R. Goddard and E. R. Franklin could hardly stand night view. Several of those have been sent off to newspapers, but the first to appear in the press was the one on the opposite page.

Extra copies of
this issue, and
souvenir cards at
the office

OIL IN DEEP WELL

It Looks Like the Deep Well Is a Success

ARE NOW IN TRENTON ROCK

Operations Shut Down Awaiting the Arrival of Casing

Indications are now that the deep well at Caney will prove a big producer.

The drill has stopped operations at at 2,575 feet—a few feet in the coveted Trenton rock, when indications of oil showed up.

Soon as convinced that oil had been found, operations ceased, and work will not again proceed until the company can get casing here, and case off the water, when the drill will be sent into the rock deeper and the well shot.

Those who have heroically stood by the well, are feeling like spring colts turned in on a green meadow. They deserve to be richly rewarded for their efforts to find what is supposed the mother stratta of oil producing sands.

The work has been carried on on the scientific annalysis of Professor Hatch, and so far his theories have been correct. If the well proves to be a big producer, it will be the biggest thing yet for Caney, and we hope for great things.

As it is now Caney is all expectant, and the eyes of the well are rivited on this well.

ANOTHER GASSER

Brought in Four Miles Southeast of Town Last Saturday

THE BIGGEST IN THE FIELD

The New Well is Estimated at Thirty Million Cubic Feet a Day

The biggest gasser yet found in the Caney field was brought in last Saturday on the Van Derpot farm about four miles southeast of town, near the Sid Brown lease.

The well is the property of the New York Oil & Gas Company—a child of the Kansas Natural—and the work was done by Messrs. Jones, who was drilling with an eight-inch and a quarter bit. The gas sand was struck at a depth of 1,430 feet and the drill fairly tapped the sand when the enormous volume of gas prevented any more drilling.

The well was tubed with six inch line pipe—the only available material for casing a well of such powerful rock pressure and large flow.

In speaking of the well, W. W. Barr, who has charge of the large gas wells here owned by the Kansas Natural, said that the well is larger than any of the other large wells in the Caney field, and the largest well in the Kansas and Indian Territory field, with the exception of one at Ramona, Ind. Ter., which stands at thirty-eight million. This addition of such a monster well adds all the more to the importance of the Caney gas territory, and to Caney as a city.

AN OIL MEETING

A Big Delegation of Oil Men Met in Caney

HELD BEHIND LOCKED DOORS

What They Did Is Unknown to the Wide, Wide World

There was a meeting of independent oil men in Caney Monday, at the Royal Hotel. We say "independent" but that is presumption. We guess at that because M. L. Lockwood, H. E. West, W. S. Fitzpatrick, and several of their friends and associates were in attendance.

It was a secret session. They locked themselves in a room at the Royal, and gave strict instructions to keep off all cowans and evedroppers. Several put their names on the register, but afterward cut them out.

The nature of the meeting, and what they did or talked about is known only to the men who attended.

BIG WELL A FIRE

A Thirty-six Million Gas Well
Burning Near Caney.

WAS FIRED BY LIGHTNING

Illuminates the Country for Many
Miles Around.

During the rainstorm last Friday afternoon the big gas well four miles southeast of Caney was ignited by lightning, and since that time has been a sight worth going miles to see.

The well was not struck by a bolt of lightning as is generally thought it did, but an electrical spark high in the air over the well set it on fire. The drillers had left the well, and were at the boiler, about a hundred yards distance when the well was ignited. In fact experienced men with gas do not stay at a well when electricity is playing through the air. There is no telling just how far the stream of gas reaches into the air, and especially when it is coming out of an eighth and a quarter inch well at the rate of 36,000,000 cubic feet a day, with a force of nearly 700 pound to the square inch.

In all its fury, the roaring, rumbling well, seemingly trying to tear to atoms the earth and all about it, is a beautiful sight. The editor visited the well Friday night in company with S. H. Barr, and we must confess that we had a few moments of fear. It seemed to us like a chained demon trying to break the shackles that bind it, that it might destroy all in its path. The very earth trembles for hundreds of yards away.

In looking away from the fiery well the country around it has the appearance of snow capped hills, with the dark, luminous storm clouds in the background. The reflection of the light can be seen miles and miles, while the country within a radius of at least ten miles from the well is better lighted than the average town is by its street lights.

Just how the flames will be extinguished is a perplexing problem. Seven large boilers have been placed around the well from each of which is extended a two-inch steam pipe. The fourteen streams of steam were turned on full force Tuesday evening for the first time, but with no more effect than the blowing of a Kansas zephyr or the wind of a professional politician has on the rank and file of the people. The next attempt to put out the

flames will probably be made today, when a large hood that has been made for the purpose will be placed over the well. This hood will have several escapes through which the gas will escape, each escape being provided with a cut-off valve. These will be shut off one at a time until flames are extinguished. Steam will be used to keep the gas from re-igniting from the intense heat of the earth beneath the gas.

Mr. McDowell says that the matter of controlling the fire does not worry him. It is the fear that someone will get hurt that give him concern. He freely admits that if he had no business at the well he would not be near it.

In talking with Mr. McDowell, general manager of the Kansas Natural Gas Co., we learn that the big well is a 36,000,000 producer, and that 16,000 cubic feet of gas is equal to a ton of Cherokee coal—the product used in Kansas. In the east where the coal is of much better quality, it takes 20,000 feet of gas to equal a ton of coal. Figuring on this basis, were the gas being consumed coal there would be 2,250 tons burned every twenty-four hours which would cost at retail prices in Caney \$11,250 every day, or up to the afternoon seven days that the well has been burning \$78,750 which is coal has gone up in smoke.

What the loss is when the well is a fire. The well

measures 36,000,000 cubic feet a day, and the price of gas is 20 cents a thousand cubic feet. It is easily seen that the value of gas that is being burned is \$7,200 every twenty-four hours, or in the seven days the well has been burning the company has lost \$50,400 besides the expense they have already been to in their effort to extinguish the flames.

It may be interesting in passing to note that the difference in the cost of coal and the cost of gas is \$4,050 a day in favor of the gas.

More than enough gas has been lost to run the Caney Smelter more than two months.

To add to the dangerous condition of affairs, two loads of nitro-glycerine stuck in the creek not over fifty yards from the well. There was no more interest there for spectators, and the well shooters kept water in the cans until it could be carried to places of safety and the wagons pulled out of the mud. Had the 1,800 quarts gone off the fire would have been put out of business and the country around it would have been torn up. But it didn't go off.

CANEY, KANSAS, FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1906..

THE BIG BLAZER STILL BURNS

Caney Burning Gas is Still Burning, and
and Attracts Widespread Attention. It is the
Biggest Gas Well That Had Ever Been
Known to be on Fire. Thousands of People
Come to Caney to See the Monster Flame.

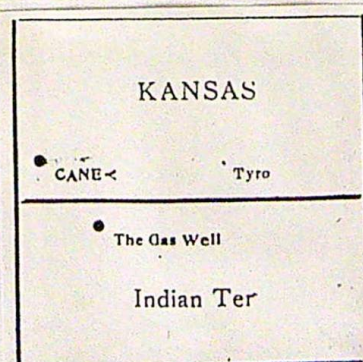
THE GAS WELL HAS INCREASED CREASED TO 70,000,000 CUBIC FEET

No Wonder the Well Attracts the Attention of People
all Over the Country, and They Throng About
the Monster Awe-Struck.

It's a Sight Worth Traveling Many Miles to See.

Extra copies of
this issue, and
souvenir cards at
the office

Drawing showing the location of the
gas well, 3 miles east and 2 miles south
of Caney.



There is no denying the fact that the people of Caney have seen all the sights of a burning gas well that they care to see. From the time the well was first fired the sight was terribly beautiful, (if such an expression is admissible in describing something that is at the same time both beautiful and terrible) but when the monster gasser suddenly doubled in volume last Friday evening the well struck terror to many of the people of Caney.

The terrible rumbling and roaring of the burning gas as it came from the well with a force of about six hundred and fifty pounds to the square inch sounded like the approach of a cyclone or tornado. Some people who have heard the wild waves of the mighty deep when the sea was rough say it sounds just like the ocean when a storm is on.

At any rate it was something terrible. The vibration from the well rattled the windows in houses in town between four and five miles from the well. Nervous people could not sleep. Superstitious people were in constant dread for fear of an upheaval of the

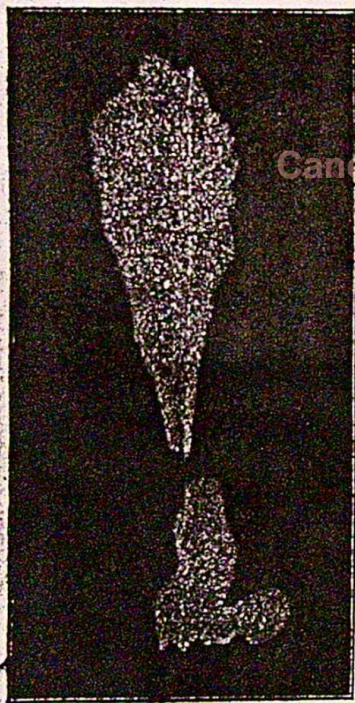


Photo by Franks taken Sunday night Feb. 25.

entire country, but there could be no danger.

It grated unpleasantly on the nerves of most everybody. All were anxious for the terrible rumbling and roaring to cease, and when there was a change in the atmospheric condition early Tuesday morning which carried the awful noise away from the city, the effect was as the calm after a storm has passed.

At intervals the roaring would die away until it was almost lost to the ear, as the going of a heavily laden freight train. Then there would

come a gush that seemed it would tear the very bowels of the earth out. The flames would leap high into the air, and could be plainly seen from town, and there is a range of hills fully seventy-five feet high between Caney and the Cotton creek valley, and the well is located in the very lowest part along the creek.

When the well "broke loose" last Friday it hurled rocks all the way from the size of a walnut to as large as your double fist high into the air. Workmen ceased to work about the well

and guards were stationed along every approach to warn spectators of the danger of going near the miniature volcano, which had increased in volume from 36,000,000 to about 70,000,000 (these estimates are given by J. C. McDowell, general manager of the Kansas Natural, and who has had a life-time experience with gas wells.) The shower of stones had ceased by Sunday evening, and Monday morning the work of laying a track of railroad iron to the well, on which to run the truck carrying the hood was begun.

So intense was the heat that water was constantly thrown on the workmen and then they could not work long without going after fresh air.

The hood arrived Tuesday morning by special train from Independence, and was taken to the well soon as possible. The work of placing it over the well was begun immediately. It will be ballasted down over the well securely so that the pressure of gas from the well can not blow it off. To this is attached two lines of pipe, one straight up, and one leading 300 feet away from the well. This pipes are 12 and 8-inch pipes. These are expected to separate the flame from the well, when the gas will be shut off by means of the valves.

Steam will constantly play on the hood to keep the flames that may come from the leaks extinguished. The flames once extinguished, the company does not care whether or not the hood stays over the well. In fact it will have to come off before the work of casing the monster can go on.

Tuesday afternoon Mr. McDowell very kindly and courteously escorted our party around the well, and everything to be seen was shown us. As we neared the monster from the northwest the vibration was so great that it felt like a current of electricity was coursing through our body.

Outside the torrid range came the tropical, and the early herbs had made a growth of as much as two inches, caused by the warming of the ground. A little further away spring had not as yet made itself manifest.

Everybody had a theory of the best and easiest way to put the fire out. The Coffeyville Record said it would be done by dressing men up in suits made of gunny sacks soaked in water. With these to protect them they would rush in and with wet gunnysacks in their hands would smother out the flames. There are two weak points in that theory; one is, what would protect the men from the boiling water,

and the other the difficulty of getting enough men around a six-inch hole at one time to smother out the flames.

Another sure way was to secure a rock weighing two or three tons, draw it over the well by means of chains fastened to iron rods fastened to the rock. That was supposed to entirely shut off the gas. It might have worked.

Another plan was received by the CHRONICLE through the mails. It was to throw enough salt into the well to smother it out. But who would put the salt in?

Another was to tunnel under the ground, put a partition in the tunnel, one for air and one for escaping gas. Then put a clamp on the gas pipe to prevent its pulling apart, then saw an opening in the pipe, and shut the gas off by means of a slide. That might work all right, but Mr. McDowell says the man who would do that had just as well say his prayers before he went in, for he would never get out alive.

Dynamite was suggested, and glycerine was thought of, both of which might have worked all right.

Another suggestion sent to Mr. Utterback was to take a blanket, double it and wet it, fasten a chain to it and draw it over the well.

But the men in charge of the well, who have had years of experience in handling gas wells, seen fit to work out their own salvation, and had the hood made. They thought the hood

was probably the best method of extinguishing the flames.

Plans and ideas of how to extinguish the flames have been received by the score through the mail, over the phone and by wire. Some are very amusing.

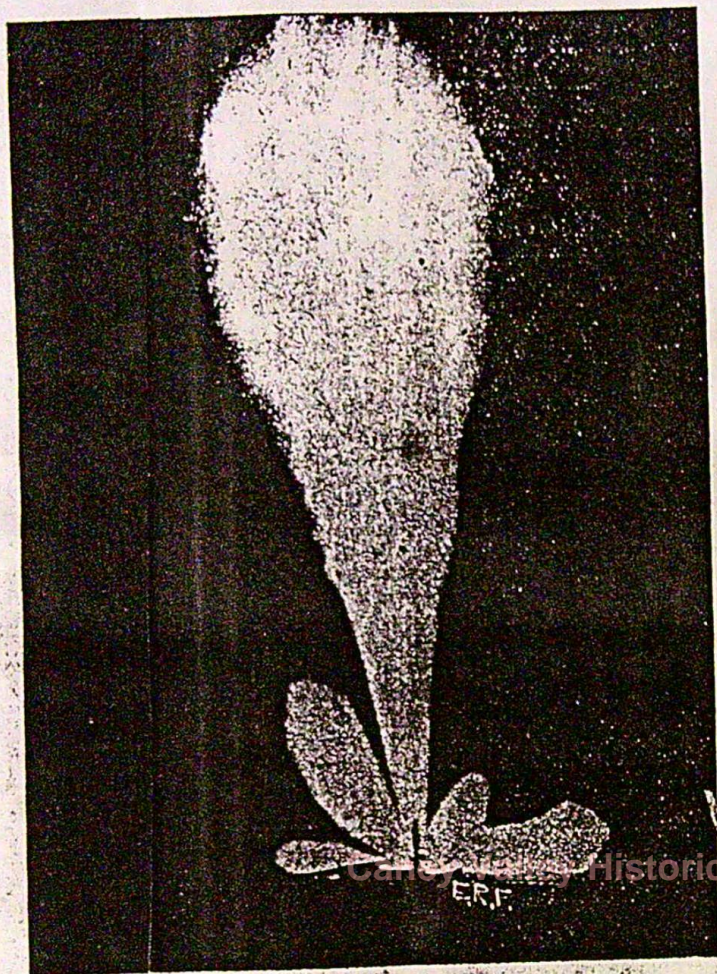
Not a moment's time has been lost by the company. From the very moment the officials knew the real strength of the well and what they had to fight, they begun preparing for the battle. The foundry at Independence worked night and day and Sunday too, making the hood, and the very moment it was completed a special train was ready to bring it to Caney. Another special train was chartered to bring other material from Chanute where other parts of the necessary apparatus was made.

The sight afforded by the burning well is worth travelling many miles to see. In fact people have come from all parts of the country and have been

paid for the trouble and expense. A gentleman from Connecticut who was who was in the vicinity hired a rig at Tyro and drove out. His team thought he was directing them into the bottomless pit and refused to be driven into the sea of brimstone. They ran away, and it cost him a new buggy to see the well.

Another man from Boston begged the workmen to take him out at any cost.

Two ladies from Joplin, Missouri, hired Mr. Oglesbee to take them out to Dave Brown's, relatives of theirs. When they reached the top of the hill he had hard work persuading them to



Taken Sunday night March 4, showing the increased strength of the well—Photo by Franks.

go on; they wanted to turn back, after coming all that distance to see the well. They said they knew they would not sleep any, and we expect they did not.

At night is the time to see a burn-

ing gas well. It is then that one can see it in all its beauty and attractiveness.

Many dead ducks were seen around the well. They flew over the well on their voyage to the Northland; and the flames from the well suffocated them, and the heat singed their feathers before they struck the ground.

The light from the well can be seen for thirty or forty miles. A party living five miles west of Independence heard the roaring and saw the light thinking the tank farm was on fire. It can be seen at Cherryvale and beyond Elk City and as far as Claremore report has come that the well can be plainly seen.

Several good pictures of the well was taken. W. K. Godden and E. B. Franks each had good night views. Several of these have been sent off to newspapers, but the first to appear in the press was one made by Prof. Frank

Aldrich, which appeared in the Topeka Journal. The Kansas City Star has had Mr. Frank L. Martin on the ground since Sunday and he has been doing good service.

"It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good." While the gas company is losing thousands of dollars worth of good gas, Caney is deriving thousands of dollars worth of advertising. For a week the papers have been full of the burning gas well, and hundreds of people now know that Caney is on the map who never knew before there was such a place. It has furnished a harvest for the liverymen. Every available conveyance has been kept in constant use, and then the demand was greater than the supply.

Tuesday evening an excursion train from Cedar Vale brought 302 sightseers from Cedar Vale, Elgin, Sedan, Peru, Niotaze and Havana. Nobody knew they were coming for sure until a late hour and it was impossible to get conveyances to the depot to take them out. C. E. Clifton and T. E. Trigg hustled around and did the best they could, and did exceedingly well, under the circumstances, but a large crowd had to walk out.

Wednesday evening's train brought in hundreds of people, and accommodations were much better. Everyone who could rig up a means of conveyance did so, and while there is not yet enough, the situation is much relieved.

If the well is still burning Sunday, there will be the biggest crowd in Caney ever assembled in a town in Southern Kansas. Excursions are being arranged from Wichita, Nevada and Joplin, Mo., and Kansas City. Everybody will have to throw open their homes if the crowd is properly taken care of. But we hope the well is under control before this gets into print. We are advertised a big plenty. Miss Lewin is home from St. Louis, and says the burning gas well at Caney is all the talk in that city, and certainly that is all you can hear in every city, town and hamlet in the west.

As we go to press the hood which it is hoped will master the monster flames is nearing the mouth of the well and we hope, and sincerely hope that ere this edition of the CHRONICLE is in print that the burning gas well at Caney will have passed into history.

Many of our people have already opened their homes to visitors, and given shelter to those who come to the burning well. That is the right spirit.

The blaze was larger last night and Wednesday evening than ever, owing to the stillness of the atmosphere,

which allowed the natural flame to show itself. It was not because the well was stronger that the flame was larger.

The machinery with which to put the hood over the well consists of a triangular shaped crane. This is mounted on two trucks, and supported by a network of steel cables.

A little incident occurred at the well when a couple fellows offered a drink of whisky to some of the workmen. Some other of the workmen took a punch at him, and when he got through the mill, he somewhat resembled a stuck hog in a packing house.

When the hood was within about fifteen feet of the well the front axle of the front truck supporting the pipe broke. When the pipe supporting the hood was disconnected the weight of the hood broke one of the guy cables, allowing it to swing around off the track. It will probably take a day or two before they are ready to go to work again.

But whisky and holisting the huge iron cranes and placing them, won't work together, and whisky had to go.

Mrs. Hawes of Danville, Illinois, and her sister Mrs. Rickey were in the office today. She says all you can hear in Danville, and on the train, is the burning gas well at Caney.

Sunday excursions will be run bringing thousands of people to the city.

THE HOOD FAILED

Went On Like a Charm, But Was Too Light to Withstand the Constant Pressure of the Gas

THE TOWN WAS OVERFLOWED

The Disagreeable Weather Sunday Did Not Keep the People Out of Caney

The broken axle in the front truck supporting the heavy lead pipes supporting the hood that was to extinguish the burning gas well was replaced last Saturday, and the hood was rigged up for the test.

It was six o'clock when it was swung over the well. Soon as the rim of the hood struck the strong current of gas it was tipped to an angle of about forty-five degrees. The boom of the big crane supporting it was swung out of the current, and the hood straightened. Again it was swung in and this time it was held almost perpendicular. Just as the workmen were ready to lower the hood it dropped from the lead pipe. This was caused by the heat expanding the cast iron pipe more rapidly than the steel, of which the hood was made.

Many thought the hood was ruined, and in fact it was reported in town that the hood was blown all to pieces. But the report, like many other stories, was without foundation. The threads on the hood or those in the pipe were not even bruised.

This delayed operations until other repairs could be made. The hood was connected up again, and this time it was fastened to the bearings by heavy iron straps, so that it could not fall.

It was just 3:48 Monday afternoon when Engineer Webb gave the signal to swing the hood toward the well. Before the signal was given every support, every guy rope, every pulley, and everything that supported the hood in the least was carefully examined. The management wanted no accident this time, and they did not have.

Everything moved like clock work. The hood swung into the flame and over the well without a quiver. It was lowered to the ground and the flames shot through the vent or open-

ing in the top of the hood fully twenty feet higher than ever before. Of course the flames shot out from under the bottom of the hood, but the steam from the seven boilers was turned on, and the workmen began throwing dirt around the bottom of the hood, and soon they were extinguished.

Then came the test of the hood. The valve in the hood began to close, and the gas escaping from the mouths of the lead pipes increased in volume. But the ballast around the bottom of the hood would not hold the gas, and it again broke out. The workmen went at them like mad, and soon the flames at the bottom of the hood were conquered again. This time dirt was thrown up around the hood as high as the valve, and on this several thousand pounds of mud in sacks were piled. It was decided to let this settle over night, and water was continually playing on the ballast, and fresh dirt was to be heaped upon it until Tuesday morning.

Everybody thought the fire was just as good as out. The men who had been on such nervous strain were feeling as jubilant as conquering heroes could feel. They were congratulated by people on every hand who were as anxious as they to see the big burning gasser conquered. The brave men who had worked constantly in the terrible heat were congratulating themselves that the hard fought battle was won. Manager McDowell said that he never saw a more loyal set of workmen, and the compliment had been earned by the nerry men who fought the flames.

Work had ceased for the night, and all but a few who were left to keep watch and to keep throwing the dirt around the hood and water playing on the dirt so as to pack it solidly around the hood, were on their way to

town. No sooner had they reached the city than a messenger came in with the disappointing word that the gas had worked its way through the dirt and the flames were again coming from the bottom of the hood.

Workmen were gathered together rapidly as possible and dispatched to the well. They battled with the flames all night but could not conquer them. By morning the heat of the fire and the force of the gas had eaten a hole in the steel hood, and the work of two weeks was simply time wasted, to say nothing of the expense. There is nothing to the theory that sand and salt water had cut through the hood, because there is no sand coming from the well, or it would be falling to the ground. The force of gas itself will wear away whatever resists it, when once it finds an opening through which it escapes.

The hood lays useless over the well, while the flames are roaring like mad from beneath and through it. The reflection cannot be seen, because the blaze is scattered by the hood fully fifty feet in every direction and does not extend into the air. Another and heavier hood is being made, and battle with the well will be begun just as soon as it can be made ready.

The crane is completely ruined, and the heat has put the pump, located about fifty yards away from the well, out of business. The track on which the trucks stand is ruined, and the entire work will have to be done over again.

The work of removing the debris begun Wednesday afternoon and is progressing rapidly as possible. The cannon from the tank farm, which has been at the gas well a couple weeks, was removed to the bank across the creek southeast from the well, and several shots fired into the hood, in the hope of knocking it over, but the effort failed. A log chain was drawn into the fire, but was quickly taken out, when it was seen that it would last only a few minutes in the terrible heat. A grab hook has been made, and it is hoped that the hood with its thousands of pounds of fillet can be tipped over out of the way.

There are many rumors about the well, but none of them so far can be traced to authority. There is nothing in the report that oil is spouting out of the well, or that the company has given up the effort to put it out.

A BIG CROWD

Sunday opened up stormy, and was one of the worst days of the entire winter.

Caney was expecting ten thousand visitors that day, and had it not been for the weather man, would have had more. As it was, fully five thousand

strangers were in town, coming from as far as Montreal, Canada, and we ran across one man from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Santa Fe had a special of ten coaches from Kansas City, and one from Tulsa with four coaches besides extra equipment on all the regular trains and all were loaded.

The Missouri Pacific brought in three extras. One came from Wich it with twelve coaches loaded with sight seers, and another train of twelve coaches coming from Nevada, Joplin and intervening points. A three coach train came from Neodesha.

The proposition of getting all the people to the well was a hard one. Mayor Wilson had men busy Saturday arranging with the farmers to come in and run their wagons between Caney and the well, and he could figure on conveyance for eight hundred at a trip. Saturday night rigs came in from Independence, Coffeyville, Sedan

and other towns, and every rig that could be gotten hold of was pressed into service.

It was too cold for people not used to the open air to ride in the country wagon, but the enclosed rigs were kept busy all day. Many walked out and lots of people rode out in the open rigs through the storm.

Everything was wide open, and it was one Sunday that was stricken off the calendar in Caney. Had the stores not been open the people would have suffered from the cold.

All the hotels and restaurants had all they could possibly care for. The Ideal Restaurant fed over one thousand people, and the other eating houses in proportion. One merchant was kept busy cutting cheese in ten cent slices until two and a half cheese had been sold, while it kept two busy supplying the crackers.

The crowd was admirably handled.

No one was allowed to charge more than \$1.00 for the round trip to the well. While there was too much drinking, yet the crowd was well behaved, and considering the crowd, few were locked up. Two Independence hack drivers filled up to the quarreling point on booze, and had to be quieted down by the marshal.

The people of Caney did everything possible to make it pleasant for our visitors and we believe that all can truthfully say that the crowd of fully five thousand people were handled as well as they could possibly have been on a stormy day.

Thirty-two agents and officials who had been attending the convention of Missouri Pacific Agents at Coffeyville came over Wednesday afternoon. After the meeting was over the General Manager told them to go down to the depot and take a special train awaiting them and come over to Caney and see the greatest wonder of the world, and they came, the company paying all expenses.

CANEY IS ROASTED

Bullies From Other Towns Run
Up Against It Hard

DECENT PRESS TAKES UP FIGHT

Even Distort Caney News to Make It
Appear Caney is a Bad Town

Out of town toughs ran up against the real thing in Caney on excursion day, and we are surprised that decent newspapers are jumping onto Caney officials because they wouldn't let them run the town and everybody in it.

One complaint comes from Winfield who sent one Howard Compton, the acknowledged bully of the town, over on the excursion. To be plain and not profane Compton raised hell all the way over, and Marshal Bishir was warned that there would be something doing if Compton got bad. When Mr. Bishir was called to the train it was to take charge of Compton. He told the big bully to come with him and he refused. Bishir chugged him a couple times with his fist, and Compton was good the rest of the time while in Caney.

Another howl came from Sedan. The Lance feels awfully bad because one Tompkins was handled without gloves. Tompkins came over to have a time in his own sweet way. He was disappointed. In Sedan he may be in the habit of running the town; in Caney City Marshal Bishir has, it may be, a foolish idea that he draws his salary for handling such men, and when he comes in contact with such fellows as Tompkins he handles them. It is probably an oversight on the part of the council that he is not provided with gloves. Tompkins put up \$10 for his appearance in police court Monday and judging our city marshal by himself, supposed he (Bishir) stuck it in his pocket. But he didn't. And promptly Monday morning the forfeit was turned over to Judge Buckley, and the case is properly docketed on page 67 of the police docket.

The Cherryvale Republican got sore at something and wilfully distorted an article in the News making it appear that the officers of this city cruelly handled offenders, when it was clearly and plainly written marshals in the Territory outside Caney's jurisdiction.

If toughs comes from other towns to Caney, they may expect to get such treatment as they are looking for; at least that is what would-be-bad men at Caney have learned to expect.

Made the Well Hot

A correspondent who visited the burning gas well last week writes to the Atchison Globe: "The heat is warming the ground to such a degree that the farmers are profiting. Lettuce and radish seed put in the ground at 6 o'clock last night had sprouted, pushed through the soil and matured by seven this morning and thousands of teams are engaged in hauling the products of this immense hot bed to market. All sorts of experiments are being tried. One man planted potatoes and in six hours he not only had potatoes big enough to dig, but the heat went on and cooked them so that they were baked ready for the table. Eggs laid within two miles of the well are hatched within two hours, and all the incubators in this section have been thrown away. Watch for the Caney gas well incubator. The name is sure to be attached to the next incubator invented. The flames were shooting up so high at noon today that fear was expressed that the heat in the heavens would cause those who were there to wonder if they had reached the other place."

A LINE WAR.

Oil Companies in Wayside Field
Drill Uncomfortably Close.

There is a line war on at Wayside between three oil companies, and as usual in such cases, considerable feeling is being engendered, probably more against the land owner than between the companies.

Some time ago the Santa Fe Railway company gave a lease on its right of way through the Wayside field and the lessees began operating. The first well was drilled within 100 feet of the Allen lease. The usual custom is to keep 400 feet from its line, but as the right of way there, is only 100 feet wide it was impossible to get away from the line. The Vulcan Oil Company, which is operating the Allen, came on and drilled an off set well. Then the right of way people went over to the south side of the track and started a well within 20 feet of the National Production Company's Paul farm line. That made the National folks "red hot" and they put a rig within ten feet of the line, so that a good jumper could almost leap from one to the other. Now the right of way crowd has made another location 20 feet from the Paul line, and the National people have set another stake ten feet from the railway land—and oil is only 67 cents a barrel.

"The thing that warms up my western blood most," said one of the operators who is being crowded, "is that the Santa Fe to whom we have paid thousands of dollars in freight in this field, should lease a little narrow strip of land to the injury of those who have them. It looks to me like a mighty nearsighted and poor business policy."

And the fight has just begun.

Doing Quite Well

The Caney Glass Company shipped five cars of glass last week to Denver, Colorado, and Minneapolis, Minnesota. They will get out five cars this week to the same points. The plant will be shut down Saturday and Monday, setting blocks. Next Saturday will finish the seventh month this fire without a break or a hobble. This not only speaks well for the management, but also for the class of workmen they employ.

So far, the company has shipped 100 cars of glass this season.

This has averaged about \$1,500 to the car, or \$150,000. Now if you know the cost of production you can readily see the profit in the business.

Besides what has been shipped out the company has piles and piles of glass yet to be cut, and box upon box ready to ship.

In Society

Independence Reporter: The home of Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Allen on south 6th street was the scene of a very pleasant gathering on Thursday evening when their daughters, Mrs. J. I. Blackledge of Caney, Mrs. Lillie Kahn of Illinois, and Mrs. Hoyt of Chanute, entertained their former friends. Each lady invited her own coterie of chums and each entertained in a different room. A sumptuous dinner was served at six o'clock, and dining in a separate room. Mr. Blackledge returned to her home in Caney Friday morning, and Mr. Kahn and Mrs. Cates left for the homes Friday evening. They were raised here and each had a host of friends who were glad to welcome them home.

The Penalty of a Kiss

A little chap in one of the lower grades is paying the penalty of staying in a portion of every noon, just because his girl was so sweet he could not resist the temptation to steal a kiss.

That is real cruel of the teacher. How long, at the same rate, would it take her to pay the penalty of each kiss she has willingly permitted to be stolen? And she didn't think, wrong either, and don't suppose she could find anyone who would argue the case should she try a natural life time.

In the spring time you renew your house. Why not your body? Hoister's Rocky Mountain Tea drives out impurities, cleanses and enriches the blood and purifies the entire system. 35 cents. Dr. A. M. Taylor.

OOT MARK KILLION

He was Captured at Copan and Taken to Nowata

Deputy Sheriff Bishir got word Saturday that Mark Killion had been arrested at Copan, and he and J. F. Gullkey went down to get him.

As was expected, Mark refused to accompany them without requisition papers, so he was held under a fugitive warrant, and taken to Nowata, where, to give the language of the U. S. marshal, "he will be held until you come for him."

Mr. Bishir immediately took the necessary steps to get requisition papers, which came Tuesday, and Sheriff Pruitt went down to Nowata Wednesday evening after him.

Mark was wanted in Caney on the charge of "felonious assault" on the person of Charles Smith, a boy about seventeen years old, whom he struck with a gun at Graves & Graves' livery barn several weeks ago.

Mrs. John J. Hopps Dead

G. B. Atwood received word from J. I. Hopps at Lawton, Oklahoma, the first of this week that his wife died there Monday, March 13. He did not state the cause of her death.

Mrs. Hopps will be remembered by her many Caney friends as an excellent lady, and a true christian character. When here she was a member of the Baptist church.

A Big Pump

A pump weighing twenty-two tons was unloaded here last Sunday and taken to the tank farm. This was all in one piece, and required three teams with a three-wheel block and tackle to load it onto the wagon.

Just think of one wagon holding a car load! But it was a monster wagon and strong enough to haul the big pump to the station on. The Standard surely intends making the Caney pumping station the best in the west.

And, by the way, it is rumored they intend putting in a refinery here, but that is just rumor—nothing reliable, so far as we have heard.

Accident at Glass Plant

F. P. Ashley who works in the boxing department at the glass plant, met with quite a painful accident Monday.

He was sawing a piece of timber, when a piece of it flew off striking him on the upper lip, and cutting through to the bone. The force of the blow was so great that he lay unconscious for about forty minutes. Dr. Bader was called and dressed the wound, and Mr. Ashley is alright, barring an aching sore lip.

Mrs. Bader—A good room house in Bradley addition. Up-to-date in every respect. Inquire of Frank Bros. Lumber Co.

TOO MUCH BUTTER

Council Met in Regular Session Tuesday Evening

ONE ORDINANCE WAS PASSED

Sewer System and Water Works Extension Discussed

The council met Tuesday night in regular session, with all members present—Franks and Barr coming in late.

Probably the smallest batch of oills that has ever come before the council was allowed, while one account was laid on the table because it had too much butter in it. It was a bill for groceries for a small-pox patient, and showed that the family had bought a pound of butter a day for several days.

The health officer was instructed that small-pox patients owning dogs must keep the dogs under strict quarantine or have them killed, he to communicate the same to the patients.

A petition is out for a sewerage in the business portion of the town; and it was found that the proposition to vote bonds for the improvement of the water works could not be voted upon at the coming city election, the law requiring at least twenty days notice.

The water works superintendent has been having trouble with Walt Connelly and the Glass plant. He was instructed to collect water rental from Mr. Connelly or shut off his supply, and the water committee was instructed to call upon the Glass company and fix up with them.

The city ordered City Attorney Work to settle costs in suits appealed to district court for several years back. The city was stuck for the costs because of worthless bonds given by the defenders of the city's peace and dignity.

Reports from the city clerk, city treasurer and police judge, were read and approved.

An ordinance granting the right to the Kansas City Long Distance Telephone Co., to set the poles necessary to get into the Caney Gas office, was passed.

Dr. Aldrich, city physician, presented some resolutions intended to better the sanitary conditions of the city, and the city attorney was instructed to frame an ordinance covering his recommendations.

MONSTER OIL WELL

4-20-06

Was Brought in Tuesday Afternoon in 2-28-14

A SHOWING OF 1,000 BARREL

One of the Biggest in the Entire Kansas-Territory Field

That Caney is fast becoming the Mecca of oil men is becoming more apparent every day.

One of, if not the biggest wells yet drilled in the entire Kansas-Territory field was brought in Tuesday afternoon, when No. 4, Martha Norris lease in 2-28 13, owned by Charles Owen was completed. The well was drilled in by W. J. Brown, and shot by Shooter Wasson.

The shoot was made in fully 1,200 feet of oil, and after the shot was made the well showed fully 1,000 a day. Mr. Brown said it was the best oil he ever saw, and he has spent many years in the oil business.

The well is 1,368 feet deep, and the oil sand in which the strike was made is thirty-eight feet thick, and every foot of it pay sand. This is something remarkable, as oil usually runs in streaks through the sand.

The well is about seven miles southeast of Caney and is in the same pool that the big gasser is. A great many oil men claimed that big oil would be found somewhere near the big gas well, and their theory seems to have been correct.

The pool southeast of Caney is the center of attraction to oil men. It is being developed rapidly, and is proving one of the very best pools as well as one of the largest in the entire Kansas-Territory field.

The CHRONICLE has always claimed that Caney would yet become an oil town as well as the BIG GAS TOWN, and our prediction, which was nothing more than a guess founded on hope, is becoming a solid fact.

WELL STILL BURNING

The Big Gas Well Still Master of the Situation

RIED IT AGAIN YESTERDAY

Three Efforts to Get the Hood Over the Well Failed

The new hood was rigged up last Monday and promptly at 11:05 the signal was given to swing it towards the well. It took just five minutes to get the hood over the well and lowered. At one time it looked as though the hood would topple over, but it was straightened up, and the flames came from under the bottom of the hood. In heats, and could not be put out, as they easily were when the first hood was put on.

The work of ballasting down the hood with dirt, rock, scraps of iron, etc., were continued all afternoon and night, and was given up next morning and a new hood ordered.

The boom pole of the crane was melted down in just nine minutes after it was swung into the flames.

When it was found that the effort was a failure the work of removing the hood was begun. When taken off it was found that the hood was injured but very little, and it was decided to try it again. The crane was patched up, and the hood put on three times yesterday, each time being a failure.

The effort will be renewed just as soon as the new hood, being made at Cherryvale can be completed, which will probably be tomorrow.

THE FIRE IS OUT

5-30-06

The Big Gas Well is Finally Conquered

ALMOST HAD IT WEDNESDAY

A Short Cable Prevented the Flame Being But Out Wednesday

The flames at the big gas well were snuffed out yesterday afternoon about 5:30 o'clock, and the biggest gas well in the world will soon have the lid on, to be opened up and used only at the will of the Kansas Natural Co., unless, like the lid on the Kansas joints, it springs a leak occasionally. The efforts Wednesday were a failure.

The old hood was used, the new one being so heavy it was feared the crane would not hold it. It was enclosed over the well nicely, and the flames around the bottom were extinguished, but broke out again, as they always have.

The elevators were rammed off the first of the week, allowing the casing to drop into the well, which did away with the flame at the bottom of the well. There is now only one flame to contend with, and that goes straight into the air. Now the workmen can get up close to the well, the heat being greater fifty or a hundred feet back than it is close to the escaping gas.

The ground around the well was leveled off and the hood lowered. But still trouble was experienced in stopping the flames at the bottom of the hood.

A wire cable was wound around a reel attached to the wheel that closes the valve in the escape in the top of the hood, and when all was in readiness several men took the end of the cable and ran with it, hoping to close the valve before the escaping gas would ignite. Unfortunately the cable was about two feet too short, and when the rope was unwound, an opening was left in the valve sufficient to allow quite a flow of gas, the flame being cut down to about twelve feet. Like mad the gas tore a great hole in the ground under the hood, and again the fire flashed defiance in the face of its would be captors.

Everything was made ready yesterday, and another effort was decided on.

The same hood was used but it was more securely tied on by heavy ballast. More cable was used on the reel, and this time the effort was a grand success. It did not take long. When all was ready the men ran like life depended upon their speed, and it did mean life or death to the biggest gas fire ever known. It was all over. The great force of the gas raised the hood, but the flames were gone.

We want to congratulate Mr. McDowell and his faithful, enduring associates who fought the fire day and night. It was an awful battle but withal it gave them much valuable experience, which we hope, and no doubt they hope, will never have to be used in putting out another world beater.

Gas Well Stopped School

The influence of the big gas well stopped the Methodist College at Winfield for a day.

It happened this way: Several of the professors from the college came over on the excursion train to see the well, and stayed over until Monday, expecting to get back on the regular train. When the conductor came around the professors, with many others, handed him the excursion ticket, but he would not take them. They insisted, and he told them he would take them as far as Niotaze, and wire for instructions, which he did, and got an answer that he would get instructions at Sedan.

When the train reached Sedan the sheriff and deputies were at the depot, and all who could not or would not dig up were taken off the train.

Most of the professors as well as many others, did not figure on staying over night, and had spent their money, so had to wait at Sedan until they could get the necessary funds from home, and the school could not run without teachers.

While the Fire Is Out Still a Big Job Ahead

IS BIGGEST IN THE WORLD

There is None That Equals Caney's Big Gasser

Putting out the fire was by no means the least act in controlling Caney's monstergas well. It has yet to be capped, and that is a great task, since it has developed that the well is the largest in the world.

The work of capping the well is in charge of Assistant Superintendent Tom Gavin. In order to guard against another fire a T pipe has been placed on the well that leads the gas away from the well. This also enables them to build the derrick, for working on a derrick over such volume of gas is a dangerous operation, if not an impossibility.

The gas well has given the Caney gas field an advertisement that cannot help but prove beneficial. The eyes of the manufacturing world is looking upon us. Such men as Mr. Landon of the Kansas Natural are predicting a town of from ten to fifteen thousand people in a few years. It cannot help but bring factories to our doors.

In speaking of the well the Independence Reporter says:

"Did some one tell you while the Caney gas well was burning that it was not an unusually large well, that if the company really wanted to it could put the fire out in ten minutes; didn't you read a lot of stuff like this in some of the anti-everything newspapers? Well, haven't we told you lots of times you could not believe a thing about oil or gas these anti-everything papers told you?"

The cross T by which the gas is diverted in order that a derrick may be built, was placed over the well yesterday afternoon, and last night the volume of the gas was gauged. It registered 61 million cubic feet a day. And it must be remembered this was after it had blown for nearly six weeks. Go tell it to those antics. Go ask them if they ever heard of a gas well in all the history of the oil or gas business that actually gauged as much. They can't do it.

The fact is the Caney gas well is the largest ever drilled west of the Mississippi river, and it is confidently believed to be the largest ever drilled in the world. There is a possibility that the Big Moses was larger, but it was in a smaller hole and no gauge was made when it was at its height. Taking the size of the hole into consideration the Caney well is undoubtedly the world's record breaker. A new derrick is being built over the well.

Now let the croakers cease croaking.

What May Follow

Independence Times: Since the fire was put out at the Caney gas well the flow has been tested and it amounts to 61,000,000 feet a day. Considering that the well has been blowing itself for five weeks, such a record is remarkable; and there seems to be little reason to question that this is the greatest gas well ever drilled in anywhere in the world. Another remarkable fact about this well was the great increase in volume while it was burning, the flow being very much greater when the fire was put out than when it started. That even greater deposits of oil than any that have yet been tapped in the territory will be found in the neighborhood of this gasser is possible—although some tremendous producers have been drilled down in that section of the Cherokee country.

Had Them Rubbering

Dr. Stevens was in Oklahoma City last week to see an aunt who was dangerously ill.

Now some people have a notion that the Doctor is a stoical disposition, but he enjoys the passion of mirth and pleasure more than anybody.

Of course when a fellow who lives in Caney leaves home and registers, he must answer all sorts of questions about the big gas well. The Doctor registered at a hotel in Oklahoma City, and was soon surrounded by a group of anxious and interested inquirers, when he asked, solemnly as a judge, why haven't you fellows seen the reflection of the well in the sky yet? Everybody went to the veranda and gazed toward Caney, which is in the neighborhood of 200 miles distance, to see the light from the well.

The Doctor said he prayed for a prairie fire in the direction, but the Lord was not prepared to answer that prayer. The fellows rubbered, just the same.

HAVE LOTS OF GAS

County Gas Inspector Sealey Brown's Report on Gas Wells

962 MILLION CUBIC FEET

Montgomery County is the Gas Producing County in Kansas

County Gas Inspector Sealey L. Brown Monday made his report to the county commissioners in session this week at Independence. An inspection of Mr. Brown's books yielded the following interesting facts and figures.

	Cubic Feet
Western States Portland Co., Independence.....	52,740,690
Federal Betterment Co., Cherryvale.....	33,844,260
Vulcan Oil & Gas Co., Havana.....	1,518,720
W P Brown, Coffeyville.....	1,021,440
Kansas Natural Gas Co., Montgomery county.....	780,127,508
McBride & Bloom, Independence.....	42,163,000
J D Nickerson, Independence.....	22,800,000
Edward Furnival, Independence.....	4,813,000
Oakwood Oil Co., Independence.....	1,096,000
Yoke & Brown, Coffeyville and Independence.....	7,440,000
Consolidated Oil & Gas Co., Independence.....	13,114,000

962,294,378

KANSAS NATURAL GAS COMPANY

All the gas holdings of the Kansas Natural in this county are listed as follows:

	Cubic Feet
43 wells, amount gas.....	361,002,760
35 wells, amount gas.....	121,661,980
36 wells, amount gas.....	50,632,440
22 wells, amount gas.....	115,297,720
16 wells, amount gas.....	75,826,768
174 wells, total amt. gas.....	780,127,508
69 wells in use, amt.....	112,750,256
105 wells not in use, amt.....	667,377,252
174 producers, 28 non-producers.	
17 of these wells are connected and in use for Coffeyville.	

26 of these wells are connected and in use for Joplin.

2 of these wells are connected and in use for Joplin.

2 of these wells are connected and in use for Deering.

22 of these wells are connected and in use for Independence, Elk City and Sycamore.

From the above it will be seen that the total flow of gas per day from the wells in this county inspected by Mr. Brown reached the enormous total of over 962 million cubic feet. All the wells in the county are included in this report, except those of the Cherryvale Gas company, the Caney Gas company and the Lanyon Gas company. The flow from the wells of these companies will swell the total to over a billion cubic feet per day, says the Coffeyville Journal.

CAPPING THE WELL

While the Fire Is Out Still a Big Job Ahead

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In speaking of the well the Independence Reporter says:

ITS A GOOD ONE

A Missouri Editor Had to be Shown and Saw It

A GREAT FUTURE FOR CANEY

The Gas and Oil District is Wonderful, and the Burning Well Worth the Trip

Robert S. Lyon of Lawson, Missouri, came over to see the big well afire, and got more out of his trip than he expected to buy for his money. He became interested in the eighth wonder of the world, and decided to see it with his own optics. "But the other things to be gained from such a trip were as great as seeing the burning monster 'gasser' on fire," says Mr. Lyon in his Ray County Review.

In speaking of the oil and gas field Mr. Lyon says:

"In going down to Caney over the Santa Fe, one can get some idea as to what is taking place there. From Iola to Caney, one can see from the car windows hundreds and hundreds of oil and gas wells. It would be a task to have to count them. Many of them cannot be seen because the derricks have been removed. But it is a sight to see them."

Mr. Lyon goes on to describe the effects oil development had on the price of real estate and tells how the oil is taken from the wells and pumped to the refineries at Whiting, Indiana. This is what he saw at the tank farm:

"The Standard people have four tank farms in this region—Caney, Copan, Nodessa and Ramona. The total capacity of the four is estimated at between five and six million barrels. Such a large amount that it is almost incomprehensible."

We saw the tank field at Caney and as it was the first one we have ever seen it was of great interest. The tanks are built three hundred feet apart. They are built so that sixty tanks are constructed on twenty acres. The farm at Caney contains about 230 acres. Over a hundred tanks have been constructed and more are in process of erection.

upon.

The roar of the escaping gas can be heard plainly in the streets of Caney five miles away and we were told that sometimes it shook the windows, so great was the vibration.

The reflection is great. Friday night we could see it over thirty miles. It looked like a fire in the heavens. Saturday night on the way back to town we tried to see how far off we could read a newspaper, and we could read the editorial page of the Kansas City Star over two miles. And we could read twenty four point letters four miles away. If it was a level country, one could read a newspaper in the streets of Caney.

With a blinding glare it lights up the whole scene. It is more brilliant than an electric light. We were more able to appreciate that part of Ben-Hurr where the Christ was born and the Jews exclaimed "The Sky is on Fire" than ever before, after seeing this sight.

The flame rises straight up and the tip of it leaps and jumps high in the air. There is no smoke. In the day time it is just a flame dancing as the wind whips it around but at night it is a blinding glare.

The noise is something we cannot fully describe. It is more deafening than thunder and greater in volume than a cannon's roar. The nearest comparison we can make to it is the roar of the Cascades at the St. Louis worlds fair, only it is a hundred times greater, yes more than that.

The workmen all have their ears stuffed full of cotton and the noise is so great that they have to go by signs. It was a funny sight to see them going around silently, motioning to each other. It was like a deaf and dumb class.

We have studied long and we cannot think of any comparison that suits us or that we think is adequate. It is beyond description, so far as making the reader fully understand it. The great flame, a monster tongue of fire, vicious and consuming, is something fearful. Its deafening roar is enough to strike terror to the soul. It is a force of nature that seems to baffle all attempts to capture it.

Its horrible roar is more penetrating than distant thunder and its crater

It gives the appearance of spring and the bursting buds are in advance of their proper time. What was a section of a corn field is now akin to a corner of all the flame and flare and glamour one can crowd into the imagination."

He gives an idea of the kind of people that make up Caney in the following:

"One of the most pleasant features of the whole trip to Caney was the meeting with Mr. J. F. Nelson, who is agent at Cambridge, Kansas, but whose home is at Caney. We met him at Independence, Kansas, and rode down to Caney with him.

He gave us much information of the country and befriended us in many ways. Saturday evening he hitched up his horse and buggy and took us around town, to the glass factory and smelter, to the tank farm, and at night we went to the burning well together. He did all in his power to accommodate us and it was appreciated by us. He had never seen us before but he could not have treated us better if we had known each other for a life time.

Such friends in a strange place are appreciated and what Mr. Nelson did for us on this occasion will never be forgotten. We only hope that the opportunity will come for us to show him our appreciation of all he willingly and gladly did for us."

"We saw many things while gone to repay us for the trip. The time was well spent. The burning well is something we will never see again. It was nature turned loose on a rampage.

It will be gotten under control if it is not already so, but it is an undertaking that seemed almost impossible for human being to accomplish."

LABOR IS RESUMED

Caney Brick Plant Begins Operations Again

WHEELS BEGAN TO TURN

Starts out Monday With a Force of Fifty Men on Pay Roll

The Caney brick plant began operations Monday with a small force of men, and begun work in earnest Tuesday morning, with a force of fifty workmen.

The Caney brick plant has been laying idle for sometime, and many people thought it never would start up again. But the brick business has been a losing proposition the last year or so, and there was no particular incentive to make brick and stack them.

The workmen at the plant will be under the management of Jess Havenner, while Roy Ackerman, the superintendent, is under quarantine.

The big bass whistle sounded natural Tuesday morning, and we hope that the deep tones will be heard for some-

Another Big Gas Well

Reporter: It begins to look as if the Caney gas well tapped the biggest gas belt in the western field, or for as that matter in the world. The Caney Gas Company has a 20 million foot well north of it and now comes J. M. Oudby with a "buster" on the Martin farm, in the Caney pool directly east of it and south of Tyro. This well is being drilled in today. When the sand was tapped last night the well gave every indication of being another record breaker.

ANOTHER GASSER

Caney Gas Company Brings in Another Whopper.

THE BIG WELL WEARS A CAP.

Was a Big Job, But Man is Master of Nature's Forces.

The Caney Gas Company brought in another of those big gas wells so frequent around Caney, Wednesday afternoon.

It is on the Edwards lease, about a quarter of a mile south of the Edwards' well, and about two miles southeast of town. D. H. Plowman drilled it in at the regulation depth of about 1540 feet, and the well is good for 18,000,000 or 20,000,000.

It was brought in about two o'clock Wednesday, and Wes Barr with his force of men had her cased and capped by nine o'clock yesterday morning. That is going some.

No town can compete with Caney, the BIG GAS TOWN, when it comes to a matter of gas production, and each year add greatly to our resources.

The big well which burned for twenty-seven days was induced to wear its cap Wednesday afternoon, and unless it has blown it off before this is printed is still wearing it. All ordinary efforts to cap the well failed, and a new idea in capping gas wells was tried.

Instead of putting the packer on top of the pipe it was reversed and put at the lower end of the 350 feet of 8½ inch heavy, lined pipe, with a six-inch shut-off valve.

The well was drilled Feb. 16; struck by lightning Feb. 23; the fire was put out March 29, and 19 days later, April 18, was successfully capped, and we sincerely hope will not refuse to continually wear its head-gear. It was 61 days from the time the well was brought in until it was capped, and during that time 3,721,000,000 cubic feet of gas has gone to waste. Figured at 20 cents a thousand, the domestic value of gas in Caney, the amount in dollars and cents is \$744,200. The cost of putting out the fire and capping the well has not yet been figured accurately, but will amount to a little over \$10,000.

"IS AN ELEPHANT"

That is What Gas Inspector Sealy Brown Says

STRONGEST WELL IN FIELD

Six Wells Show a Remarkable Production

County Gas Inspector Brown was in Caney Wednesday, inspecting the wells owned by the Caney Gas Company, and it was here that Mr. Brown run up against the real thing. As Sealey expressed it, he had a real elephant on his hands, and was going to have Surveyor Parsons run a line and put the well in the Territory (excuse us, we mean Oklahoma,) as it is bigger than he wanted to handle.

The well is on the Senator Porter lease, and the last well brought in by the Caney Gas Co. It showed a rock pressure of 580 pounds, and Mr. Brown said that if the leaks were properly shut off so that a correct test could be made, it would go to 800 pounds. The flow pressure is 200 pounds, and the well measures 29,500,000 cubic feet, by odds the largest well in Montgomery county field.

Mr. Brown says the Caney wells have a much stronger sack pressure than any other wells he has examined. He also says that none of the wells show what are usually claimed for them. There are six wells in the Caney field as follows:

Edwards No. 1.....	5,126,760
Edwards No. 2.....	13,678,000
Glatfelder.....	13,056,000
Todd.....	2,494,800
Gilliland.....	768,000
Porter.....	29,500,000

OIL AND GAS NEWS

Doings in and About the Caney Oil and Gas Field

ANOTHER HUMMER GAS WELL

A Good Oiler Brought in and Several New Locations

It seems that there is no limit to the gas supply in the Caney gas field.

Another big gas well was brought in on the Vanderpod lease the first of the week. It is located about a quarter north of the big well, and near the straw stacks (everybody who visited the well knows the location of the straw stacks) and measured at fifteen million cubic feet a day.

Work on the deep well continues. The drill is now down 2,790 feet. Monday the drill went through what back east drillers call fog mire. It is a worthless, watery appearing fluid, that looks and smells like it came from a hog mire. The cable work out Wednesday, and work was delayed a day or so.

A fine oiler was drilled in No. 6 one day last week on the Morris lease, by Contractor Brown. The well is good for 800 barrel. The Norris lease is one of the best pay pools in the field. Work has commenced on No. 6.

A. M. Parsons located a well Monday on 21-29-13 southeast of the Owens ranch, and one on 24-29-13 for Chas. Owen, on the C. A. Stradley lease.

CANEY CHRONICLE

VOL. XIX NO. 4

CANEY, KANSAS, FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1903

SUBSCRIPTION \$1 A YEAR

THE BIGGEST ON RECORD

Caney is Certainly the City of Big Gas...
Nothing Equals It.

SHOT DRILL THROUGH TOP OF DERRICK.

The Strongest Natural Gas Well That Has Ever Been Struck in the
West.—700 Pressure.



That Caney bears the distinction of having the largest gas wells in the western gas fields, with the strongest rock pressure ever found anywhere, cannot be gainsaid.

When what is known as the big well was struck it was supposed to be a phenomenon in gas wells, and so strong was the pressure, and so great the volume, that another such well was not expected. But now the Caney Gas Company owns one larger and better by far than the big well.

The new and wonderful gas well was struck last Saturday evening on the Edwards farm, by Driller John Manning, who operates the Reese & Hazlett leases here, at a depth of 1525 feet. Mr. Manning drilled five

feet into the sand and stopped until Monday, pronouncing it a good gas well, but not dreaming he had a real gas gusher. The engine was moved out of danger line, and Monday forenoon the drill again started into the sand.

In the afternoon several parties went out to watch developments, and a description of what happened was given us by Mrs. Dr. Stevens, who was there and ran when the rest run:

The drill had gone down five feet, and no sooner had the big 3200-pound drill started up than the rope begun to coil like a snake at the top of the hole. The roaring of the well was so deafening that one could not hear his own voice, and the only warning of what was coming the spectators had was when the drillers went past them like a whirlwind. The onlookers were quick to follow the drillers, and they had barely gotten out of danger when up shot the big drill, knocking the top off the seventy-four foot derrick. The drill came down only a foot or two from the hole, sinking five feet into the ground.

On Sunday afternoon, before the strong flow of gas was struck, the force of the escaping gas was so strong that it held a 14-pound sledge hammer suspended three feet above the hole—a test made by Dr. Rader.

The well was capped Wednesday. All day did the drillers work, and it was not until eight o'clock in the evening that the monster was brought under control.

There is no doubt but the pressure of this well will, after being confined, reach 700 pounds pressure to the square inch, if not more. The gas is dry, there being neither oil nor water in it.

The new well is a mile and a half from the other gas wells, and the finding of so strong a well in a new field dispels the doubt of the extent of the Caney field, and proves that Caney has more and better gas than any other town in the gas belt.

With these facts Caney people are exceedingly confident of the future, and have every reason to believe that in the no distant day Caney will be one of the largest cities in the county.

Society

GAS
WELL

CANEY
KANS.

38000000
CUBIC FT.
PER DAY.

STRUCK BY
LIGHTNING
FEB. 23.

CANEY
GAS
FIELD

FLAME
150 FT.

DRILLED
BY
NEW YORK
OIL CO.

FEB 17.

ERF.

3172

GAS
WELL

CANEY
KANS.

38000000
CUBIC FT.
PER DAY.

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CANEY
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FIELD

FLAME
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FEB 17.

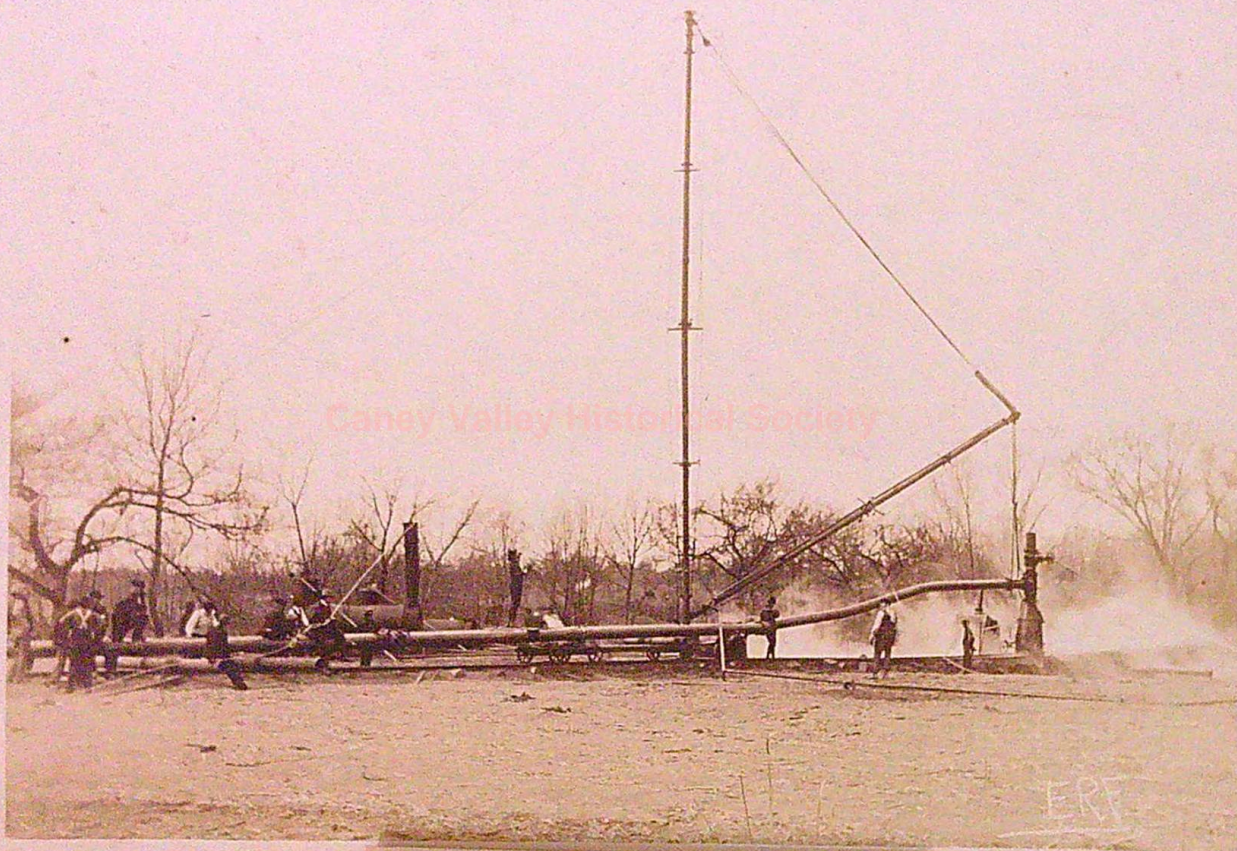
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287A



J.R.A. Caney

2395
a



BURNING GAS WELLS OF CANEY.
Year: 1906 Cat: INDUSTRY ID#: 158
Donor: E.C. Klewer

Burning Gas Well South East
of Caney, Kansas 5 miles.
40 million cu. ft.

Was set on fire by lightening
February 23rd, 1906. The
property of the New York Oil Co.

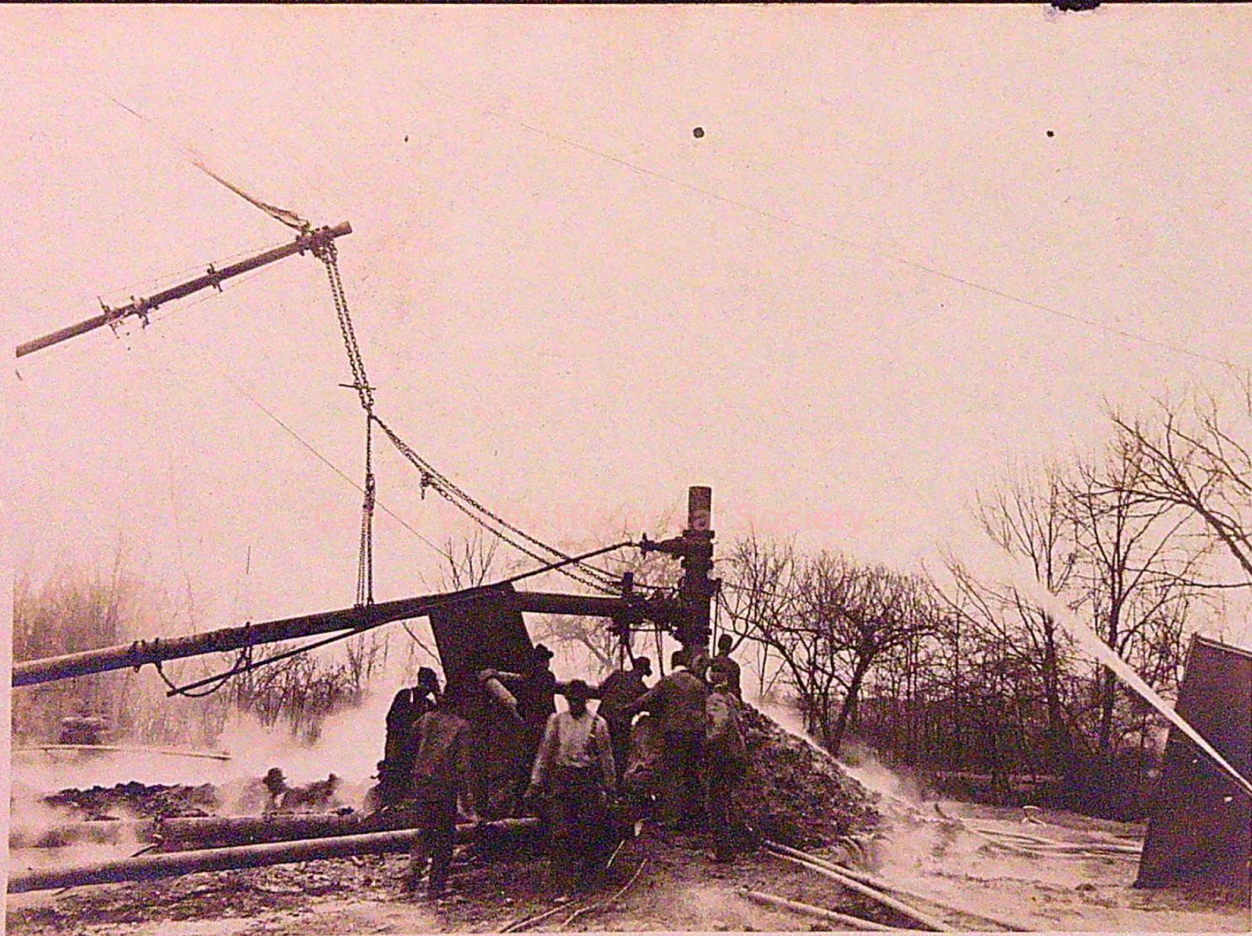
Mr. E. C. Klewer
500 South Spring
Caney, Kansas 67333

BURNING GAS WELLS OF CANEY.
Year: 1906 Cat: INDUSTRY ID#: 158
Donor: E.C. Klewer

Caney Valley Historical Society



BURNING GAS WELL SE CANEY.
Year: 1906 Cat: INDUSTRY ID#: 159
Donor: E.C. Klewer



2395
8

GAS
WELL

CANEY
KANS.

38,000,000
CUBIC FT.
PER DAY.

STRUCK BY
LIGHTNING
FEB. 23.

1904

CANEY
GAS
FIELD

FLAME
150 FT.

DRILLED
BY
NEW YORK
OIL CO.

FEB 17.

E.R.F.

1906

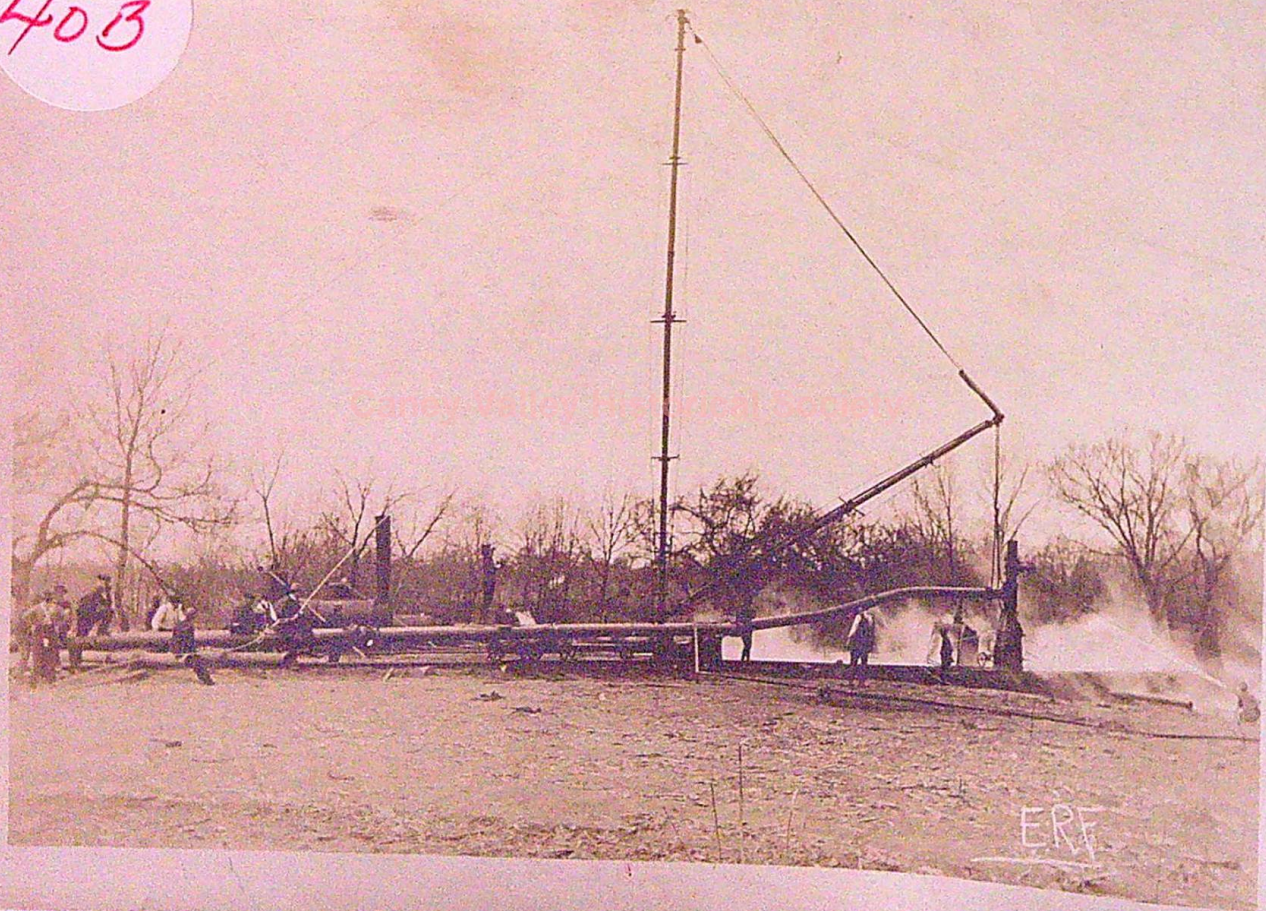
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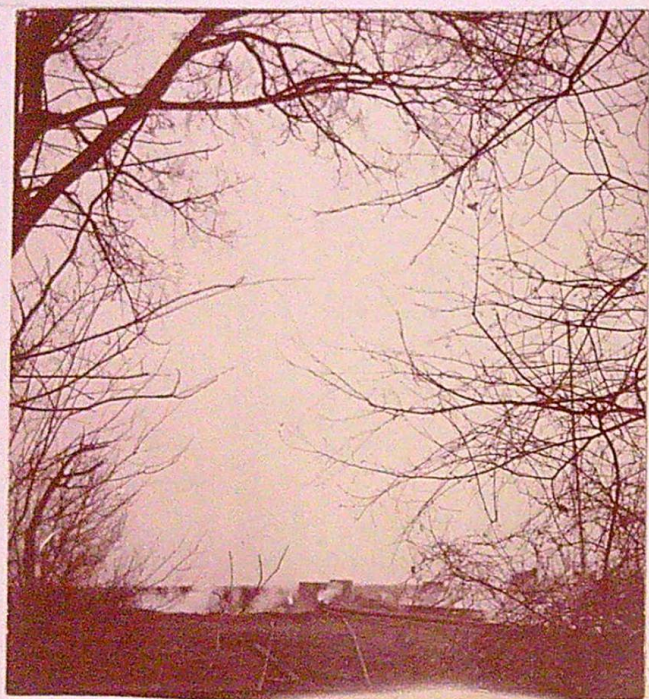
B 2137—Largest Gas Well in the World—70,000,000 cubic
feet—Struck by lightning Feb. 23, 1906—Caney, Kas.

155

FC-1323, 1906 5-larfe.
April 18, 1906 (Napper)

403





Caney Gas Well.



Caney Gas Well.



Capping "Sack" Gas Well No. 1
Caney Kans. 4/26-07.
Capacity 20,000,000 Cubic Ft. Per Day.

Photo by
L. A. Caney

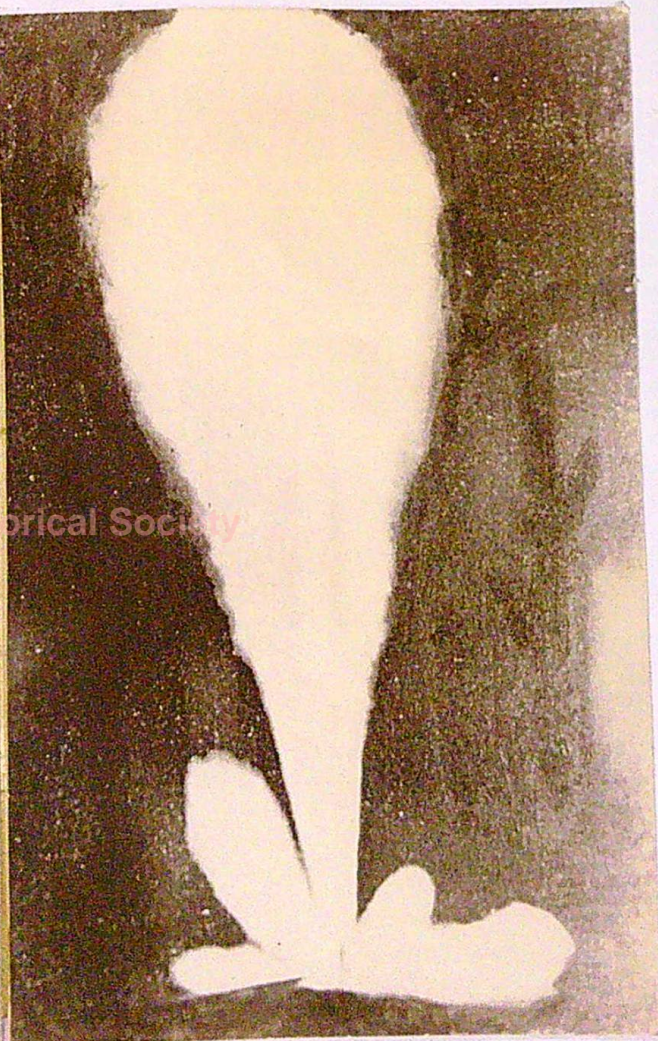
Great Burning Gas Well, Caney, Kansas.



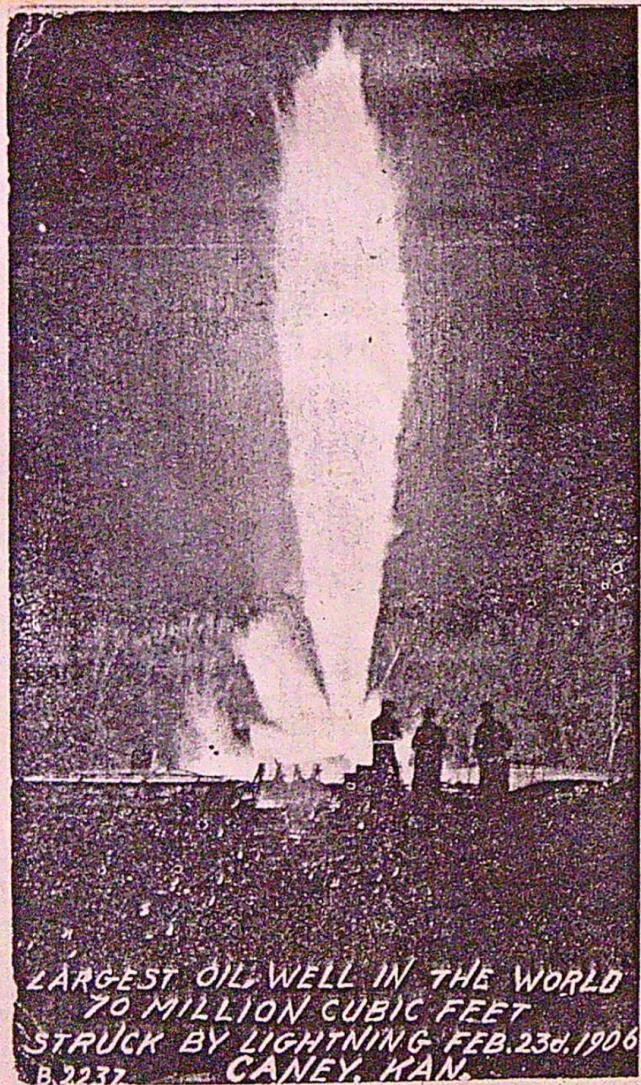
This well was "drilled in" Feb. 16, 1906, by the New York Oil and Gas Company, the flow testing 28,500,000 cubic feet of gas per day. 360 feet of eight-inch casing was used while drilling, standing on a shoulder in the solid rock. When set on fire by lightning, Feb. 18, a thousand feet of 6½-inch casing had been let down and was hanging by clamps on the top of the larger casing, reaching within 100 feet of the bottom of the hole. First attempt to put out the fire was by turning steam upon it through fourteen 2-inch pipes from seven large boilers hauled to the scene for that purpose. Steam had no effect on the flame. March 2 the gas broke out with double its former force. Has been increasing ever since. Present volume estimated at 70,000,000 cubic feet per day, by far the largest gas well ever known. Flame reaches 150 feet high. Though located in a ravine the light can be seen 100 miles. Roaring can be heard 30 miles at times. The spray of flame at the ground is caused by connection between the two sizes of casing. Apparatus used in attempt to put out fire consists of a steel hood with over 300 feet of 10-inch pipe, valves and connections. A short railroad and an immense steel derrick made for the purpose, are used in handling them. Fifty men employed under direction of J. C. McDowell of Pittsburg, Pa., and I. M. Landon of Independence, Kansas, who have had 40 years experience in the gas fields. Except volcanoes, this is regarded the most magnificent, awe inspiring scene in the history of the world. It is beyond comparison, greater than any gas fire ever seen before. At times rocks are thrown out falling hundreds of feet from the fire.

The picture on the opposite side is from a photograph made by E. R. Franks on the night of March 4, and is a true representation of the mighty flame.

NEW SOUVENIR CARD, CANEY, KANSAS.



3081



LARGEST OIL WELL IN THE WORLD
70 MILLION CUBIC FEET
STRUCK BY LIGHTNING FEB. 23d, 1906
B. 2237 CANEY, KAN.

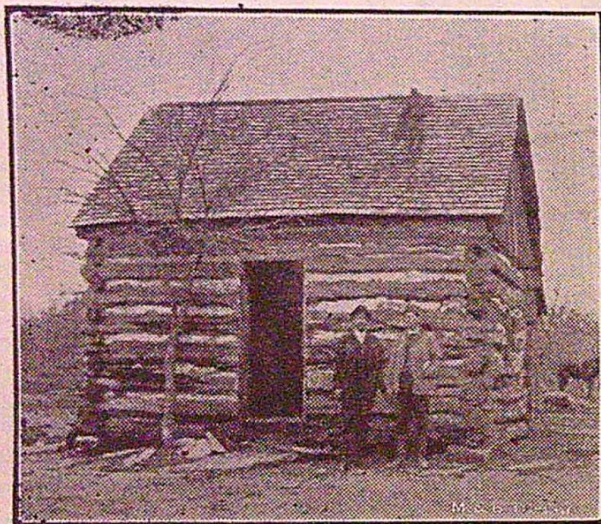
The Story of the Great Fire at Caney

For further information concerning this great gas field,
address the Commercial Club, Caney, Kansas.

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Caney Valley Historical Society
Caney, KS 67333

Story of the Great Fire

So much has been said and written of the great burning gas well at Caney, Kansas, that it is thought worth while to publish the true story of the most magnificent fire the world ever witnessed.



ORIGINAL VANDERPOD CABIN NEAR THE WELL

drilling was in the well standing on a shoulder of rock and reaching two feet above the ground. $6\frac{1}{4}$ inch casing was then used. The first attempt was a failure as the "packer" used was blown off. The casing was pulled out and two packers put on. It was again being lowered and was within 400 feet of the bottom when a thunder storm came up, on the afternoon of Feb. 23. Fearing fire from lightning the workmen were ordered from the derrick. They had scarcely reached safety when an electric flash ignited the gas and the greatest fire in history was on in deadly fury. The derrick and rig was at once destroyed.

A joint of inner casing, not yet lowered, reached upward 20 feet. From the top of this the flames roared upward about 150 feet. The gas escaping from the mouth of the well around the inner casing was deflected in all directions by the clamps with which the smaller casing was suspended upon the larger, causing a spray of flame that made approach impossible.

As steam has always been depended upon to put out ordinary fires of this sort, seven large boilers were drawn as near as possible and steam was turned on through fourteen 2-in. pipes, with no apparent effect. It was seen that a new method of fire fighting would have to be devised. In order to remove the casing protruding from the top and confine the fire to one body, an effort was made to shoot it off with steel bullets from Winchester rifles. It was thus weakened so that it could be bent over partially. A cable was fastened around the top and by passing around at a distance this joint was unscrewed and removed.

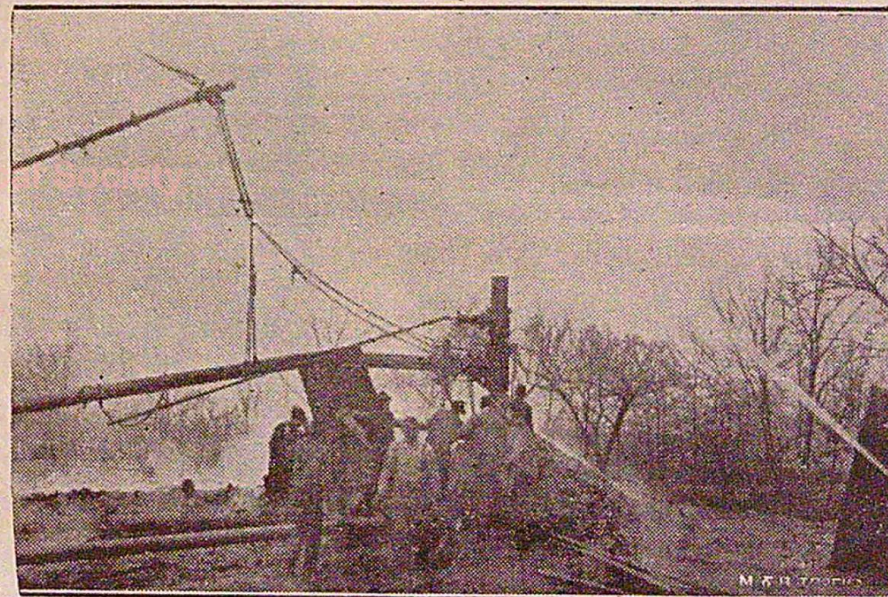
The gas well is located on the Vanderpod lease, four and one-half miles south-east of Caney, just across the line in the Indian Territory. It was "drilled in" at a depth of 1428 feet, Feb. 16, 1906. It was gauged showing a production of 28,500,000 cubic feet of gas per day, with a pressure of 660 pounds to the square inch, making it one of the six largest gas wells in the world.

An effort to tube and cap the well was at once begun. About 400 feet of $8\frac{1}{4}$ casing used in

ities of utilizing this great natural blessing when applied to man's uses. Capital need not hesitate about investment here; we have the goods. A fitting finale to this narrative is the statement that at least 2000 letters from people all over the United States, have been received by the Gas Company, telling how to put out the fire. Not one in fifty of these suggestions and plans contains even the semblance of a rational idea. Not one in one hundred of men, the more intelligent ones, has anything like an adequate conception of the magnitude of the well. Practically all of them failed to grasp the enormity of the rock pressure, which is 660 pounds to the square inch.

When this well is harnessed a two inch pipe could be attached to it and connected with the strongest steam boiler and by turning the gas into the boiler blow it into fragments in the space of a few seconds. Pipes and valves used in handling this gas must test 1500 pounds pressure.

Caney invites capital everywhere to come and use this gas in manufacturing enterprises. Our population is now close to 4,000 and increasing rapidly. We have several big enterprises already; a large smelter, a glass plant, a brick plant, and others coming. There is room for the profitable investment of millions of capital.



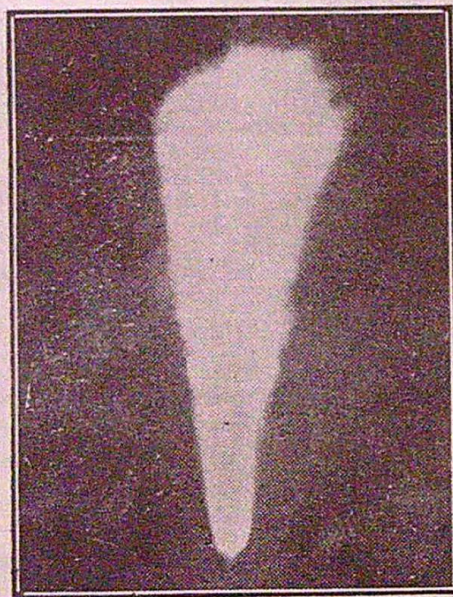
SUCCESS

The illustrations in this folder, except the two showing the flame, were made in daytime, therefore the blaze is not shown. The photos are by E. R. Franks, Caney, Kansas.

This well was finally cased in and capped, April 18, 1906. On the same day another gas well was drilled in by the Caney Gas Company, a few miles further north, and about two miles east of Caney. This new well tests 20,000,000 feet per day.

While the gas well was on fire the roar of the flames could at times be heard 25 miles away and the light could frequently be seen from points 100 miles away.

people have been sceptical about the lasting qualities of our gas supply, for the peculiar conditions under which this big gas is found created doubts in the minds of many gas experts. To more readily understand the reasons for this it is necessary to state some of the geological conditions. It has been the general belief, still adhered to by many doubting Thomases, that when the drill reached the so-called Mississippi lime stone, it is foolhardy to attempt to go further. But look at the conditions. This big gas is the deepest in this part of the field, and what is of still greater significance, it is 250 feet below any oil found anywhere near it, and it is found immediately on top of the Mississippi lime in a body of sand so circumscribed in extent that it is impossible to conceive of such an enormous flow of gas coming from so little sand. The other monster wells just north of this one, and just east of Caney, are of like character. Gas comes from oil and it always goes upward, but never downward. As this big gas comes from the top of the Mississippi lime out of a very small body of sand the question is where is the oil from which the big gas



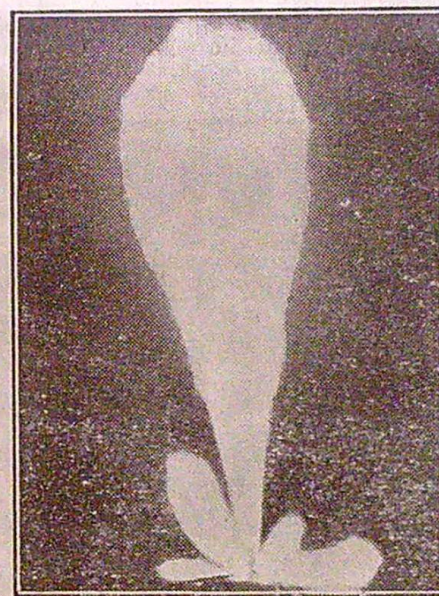
FLAME AFTER INNER CASING WAS DROPPED

From this condition a theory has been evolved that some big gas and oil bearing formation exists below the Mississippi lime, and acting on this theory a deep well was started here over a year ago, to prospect for that rock which was believed to be the Trenton. That well has reached a depth of 2690 feet, and it struck the Mississippi lime at 1550 feet, passed through it at 1827 feet, through 48 feet of block slate and shale into the upper Silurian lime, which was 650 feet thick, into a conglomerate of sand, lime and shale, 70 feet thick, into the Trenton rock at about 2570 feet. About 25 feet into this rock, a trace of oil was found, but the drill has not penetrated far enough into the formation to determine what is in it, but the theory upon which the work is based has been proven correct, so far as the existence of the rock is concerned, and it is more than probable it is the origin of all our big oil and gas.

This is already easily the biggest gas field in the world, and Caney enjoys the proud distinction of having the biggest of the big gas.

CHEAP FUEL

Caney has six other monster wells, which, added to this big one, would flow at least 140,000,000 feet a day running wide open. This would mean a daily consumption of coal of over 12,000 tons. These are not imaginary figures, but taken from actual experience here at the smelter. It is almost impossible to conceive of the vast possibil-

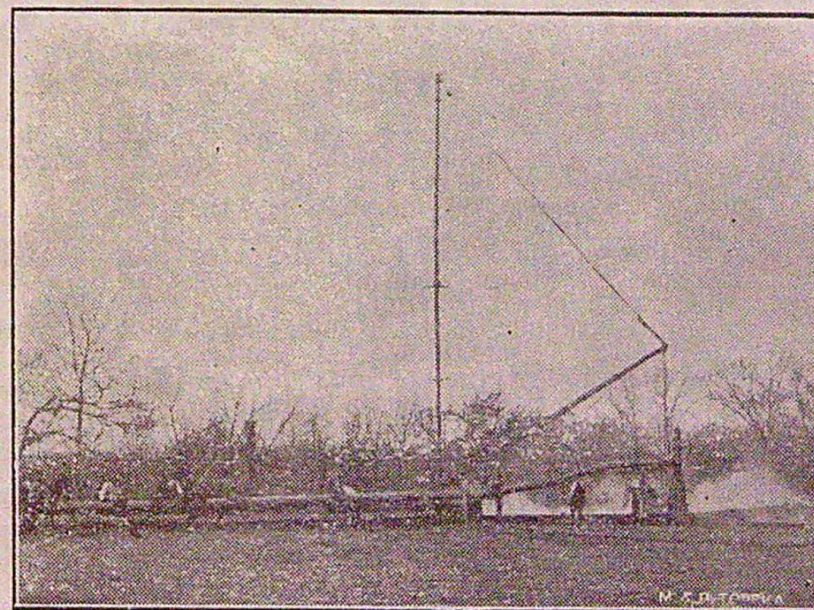


FLAME BEFORE INNER CASING WAS DROPPED

A large rectangular steel hood was then constructed. It was to be mounted on wheels in such a way that it could be drawn over the fire and dropped by a system of triggers. This was to have been tried March 3, but during the night of March 2 the fiery demon bursted out with redoubled fury. For 24 hours rocks were thrown high into the air, falling hundreds of feet around. While this lasted no near approach was possible. This increased force necessitated another plan.

A circular steel hood was then constructed with a 12-inch opening at the top to be closed with a valve. A ten-inch pipe from the side extended out 50 feet where it connected with two pipes of the same size extending 150 feet further. This system of pipes, with an immense steel crane for lifting the hood, were mounted upon a truck and a short railroad built along which to push it to the fire.

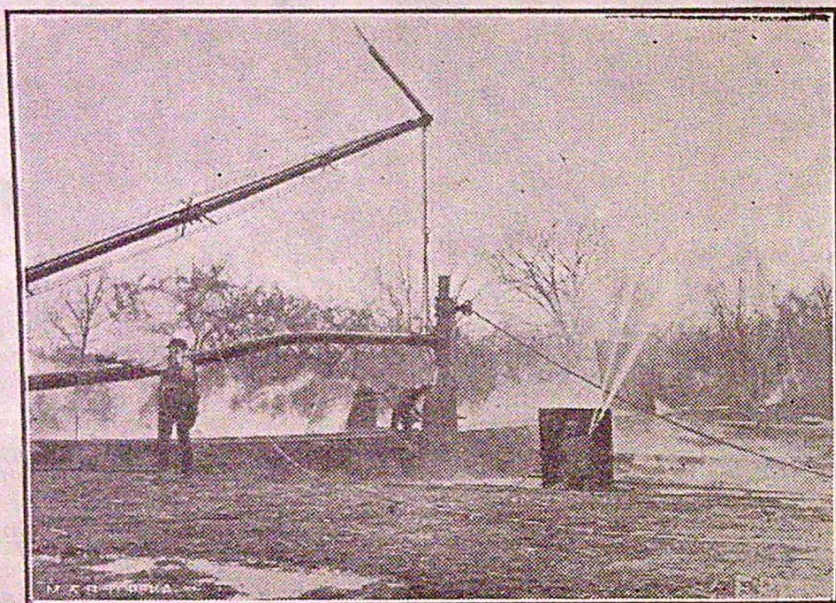
When all was in readiness, but



HOOD WITH PIPE CONNECTIONS

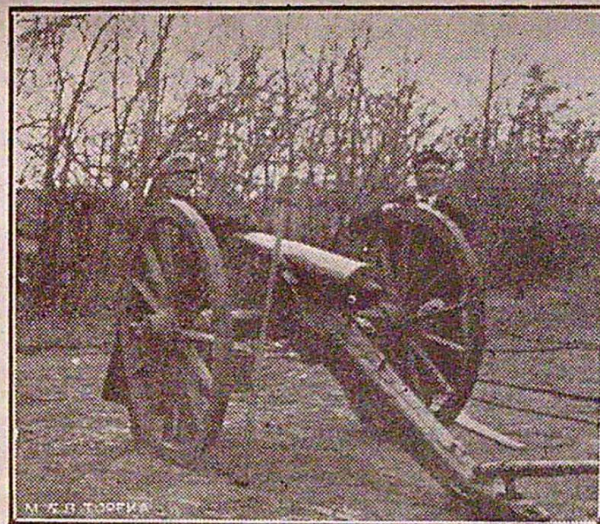
before the hood reached the fire the truck broke, causing a delay for repairs. When the fire was finally reached with the hood on

March 9, the force of the flame tore it off. It was again connected and strengthened. On the twelvth of March this hood was success-



HOOD MOVING TOWARD THE FIRE

fully landed over the flame. The spray of fire from beneath was put out with steam and the openings closed with a mound of wet earth built high on every side. The flames then all passed upward through the top, the gas escaping through the long pipes at the sides not burning. As natural gas does not burn until mixed with air there was no fire until the gas reached several feet above the top opening. The men could work about the hood and lean against it with safety. An attempt was then made to close the valve at the top but the hood quaked so violently that it was again opened. The fire appeared under control. All that remained was to anchor the hood more firmly and close the valve. Confident of this the exhausted workmen retired for the night to complete the work the next day. But during the night sand escaping from the well ground through the steel hood. In the morning it was in ruins. The connections and even the steel crane were melted down. The heap of baked earth and wreckage about the well scattered fire further than ever, and its removal was the hardest task yet attempted. A cannon was procured and the connections on the wrecked hood shot away. It was finally removed with grappling irons and heavy chains and the ground partially leveled. In the meantime a new hood and crane were constructed, heavier and larger than the first. When all was again in readiness this new hood was landed over the flame four times, but the debris from the first attempt had left the ground so uneven that it could not be settled firmly, and the fire from beneath the edges could not be put out. It was finally seen that the casing hanging in the well would have to be dropped, so the flaps would all go upward, permitting the workmen to approach and level off the ground. The clamps holding the inner pipes were knocked off and it dropped to the bottom, allowing all the fire to shoot upward. This was decided

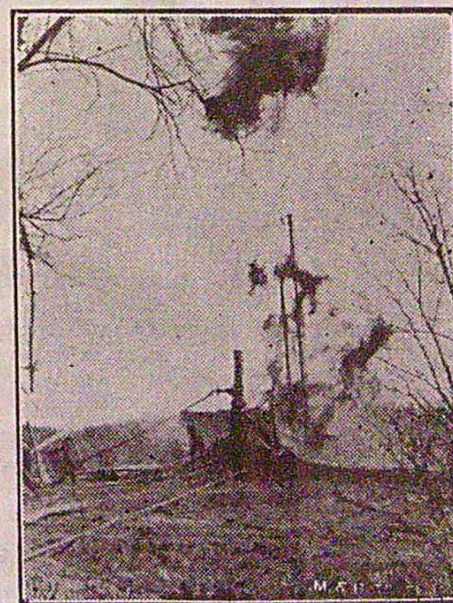


THE CANNON

upon only as a last resort as it was feared the casing would telescope in falling and ruin the well. With this side flameremoved the ground was soon leveled and the hood again placed March 28. Another failure resulted. This time it was due to not having enough cable around the spool on the valve stem to close it. The next day the hood was again placed. The bottom openings were again closed with a mound of earth, interlaid with canvas. This time there was no mistake. When the force of men siezed the cable around the valve stem and ran, the valve was closed. At exactly 4:23 Thursday afternoon, March 29, 1906, the fire that had attracted the attention of the civilized world passed into history.

The fire had burned 34 days. Over \$30,000 had been spent putting it out. A test showed the well had more than doubled in volume, now flowing at the rate of 61,000,000 feet per day.

The intensity of this fire will be better understood when it is explained that the gas in the Caney field is the purest and strongest natural gas in the world. It comes from a much greater depth than any other gas or oil in the west. It takes less than 11,000 feet of Caney gas to equal a ton of the best bituminous coal, while it takes 16,000 feet of any other natural gas, even that from wells only 20 miles away. It will be seen by this that the gas consumed during the fire was equal to practically 6,000 tons of good coal each day.



GAS SUPPLY.

Heretofore, a great many

Hood Over Well with Fire Bursting From Beneath